LOUISIANA

EQIP

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

HANDBOOK

JANUARY 2000

USDA
NATURAL RESOURCES
CONSERVATION SERVICE

LOUISIANA

EQIP

HANDBOOK *TABLE OF CONTENTS*

CHAPTER I

General Information

EQIP 2000 TIME LINE

JANUARY 2000

- **October 1999 – September 2000**
  - Continuous Sign-Up

- **February 25,2000**
  - Cut Off Date for First Ranking Pool
- **April 14, 2000**
  - Complete Ranking Process on First Pool of Applicants
- **May 3, 2000**
  - Approved List of Contracts and Cost-Share Money to Field Offices
- **August 11, 2000**
  - All Plans Completed and Signed

Louisiana

EQIP

HANDBOOK Worksheet for FY 2000 Funded GPAs/Concerns

Priority Area Or Statewide Concern	Education Assistance $	Financial Assistance $	Base Allocation Total $	Estimated Target for Livestock Concerns (%)
Geographic Priority Areas:				
Tangipahoa River	2300	150,000	152,300	80%
Bayou Pierre	2300	200,000	202,300	80%
Bayou D'Arbonne	2300	200,000	202,300	95%
Tensas River	2300	100,000	102,300	10%
Bayou de Loutre	2300	100,000	102,300	95%
Bayou Nezpique	2300	200,000	202,300	20%
Cane River Basin	0	135,000	135,000	50%
Lower Terrebonne Basin	2300	150,000	152,300	45%
Lower Calcasieu	2300	150,000	152,300	10%
Plaquemine Brule	2300	250,000	252,300	80%
Priority Area Subtotal	20,700	1,635,000	1,655,000[1]	35%
Statewide Resource Concerns:				
Livestock Production	33,175	409,900	443,075	100%
Cropland	20,675	291,325	312,000	0%
Forestland	8,350	125,025	133,375	0%
			888,450	
Statewide Concerns Subtotal	62,200	826,250	890,750[2]	50%
Total Allocated Funds	**82,900**	**2,461,250**	**2,544,150**	**40%**

1 *Represents 65% of the total allocation*

2 *Represents 35% of the total allocation, these funds cannot exceed stated percentage.*

LOUISIANA

EQIP

HANDBOOK Rankings

STATEWIDE NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITY CONCERNS

1.....Livestock
2.....Cropland
3.....Forestland

GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITY AREAS (GPAS)

2.....Tangipahoa River
4.....Bayou Pierre
5.....Bayou D' Arbonne
7.....Tensas River
8.....Bayou de Loutre
9.....Bayou Nezpique
10.....Cane River Basin
11.....Lower Calcasieu
12.....Lower Terrebonne
13…….Bayou Plaquemine Brule

GPA	DC	FO	Telephone	VoiceCom
Tangipahoa	Donny Latiolais	Amite	504-748-8620	
Bayou Pierre	Alvy Slatten	Coushatta	318-932-4352	568-1325
Bayou D'Arbonne	Jerry Shows	Farmerville	318-368-8021	568-1335
Tensas River Basin	Steve Cruse	Winnsboro	318-435-6743	568-1330
Bayou de Loutre	Jerry Shows	Farmerville	318-368-8021	568-1335
Bayou Nezpique	Susan McBride	Oberlin	318-639-4850	
Cane River	Glen Austin	Natchitoches	318-357-8366	
Lower Terrebonne	Tim Landreneau	Thibodaux	318-447-3871	
Lower Calcasieu	Clay Midkiff	Lake Charles	318-436-1483	968-1135
Bayou Plaquemine Brule	Keith Latiolais	Opelousas	318-942-2530	568-1480

EQIP 2000

Application No: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Farm No: _____ **Tract No:** _____

I have applied for EQIP funding on the following practices. These practices are not part of my normal farming operation. I am not requesting EQIP payments for practices currently within the lifespan of previous federal cost-share practice payments.

NRCS Practice No: _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Producer: _____ **Date:** _____

CHAPTER II

A. Eligible Conservation Practices & Maximum Cost-Share Rates & Incentives

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Eligible Conservation Practices

1/00

Practice Name	Unit	Practice Code
Access Road	ft	560
Animal Trails and Walkways	ft	575
Brush Management	ac	314
Composting Facility	no	317
*Conservation Cover	ac	327
*Contour Farming	ac	330
Cover & Green Manure Crop	ac	340
Critical Area Planting	ac	342
Dike	ft	356
Diversion	ft	362
Fence	ft	382
Field Border	ft	386
Filter Strip	ac	393
Forest Harvest Trails & Landings	ac	655
Forest Site Preparation	ac	490
Forest Stand Improvement	ac	666
Grade Stabilization Structure	no	410
Grassed Waterway	ac	412
Irrigation Land Leveling	ac	464
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	no	447
Irrigation Water Conveyance:		
Ditch and Canal Lining:	ft	428
Pipeline	ft	430
Land Smoothing	ac	466
Lined Waterway or Outlet	ft	468
Mulching	ac	484
*Nutrient Management	ac	590

Pasture & Hayland Planting.....…ac.....512
***Pest Management.....…ac.....595**
Pipeline.....ft.....….516
Pond.....no.....…378
Pond Sealing or Lining.....no.....521
Precision Land Forming.....…ac.....462
Prescribed Burning.....…ac.....338
Prescribed Grazing.....…ac.....528A

***Eligible only for GPA's if applicable.**

1/00

Practice Name	Unit	Practice Code
Residue Management/No-till & Strip-till	ac	329A
Residue Management/Mulch-till	ac	329B
Residue Management/Ridge-till	ac	329C
*Residue Management/Seasonal	ac	344
*Riceland Water Quality Improvement	ac	746
Riparian Forest Buffer	ac	391
Roof Runoff Management	no	558
Sediment Basin	no	350
Streambank & Shoreline Protection	ft	580
*Strip Cropping/Contour	ac	585
*Strip Cropping/Field	ac	586
Structure for Water Control	no	587
Terrace	ft	600
Tree/Shrub Establishment	ac	612
Trough or Tank	no	614
Underground Outlet	ft	620
Use Exclusion	ac	472
Waste Storage Facility	no	313
Waste Treatment Lagoon	no	359
Waste Utilization	ac	633
Water & Sediment Control Basin	no	638
Well	no	642
Well Decommission	no	351
Wetland Development or Restoration	ac	657
Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management	ac	644

***Eligible only for GPA's if applicable.**

2000 EQIP 1/00

Practice Name	Unit	Practice Code	Cost/Share Rate (%)	Incentive [1/] Payment ($)
Access Road	ft.	560	75[6/]	
Animal Trails and Walkways	ft.	575	75	
Brush Management	ac.	314		18 [5/]
Composting Facility	no.	317	75	
Conservation Cover	ac.	327[11/]		
Contour Farming	ac.	330 [11/]		
Cover & Green Manure Crop	ac.	340		20
Critical Area Planting	ac.	342	75	
Dike	ft.	356	75	
Diversion	ft.	362	75	
Fence	ft.	382	75	
Field Border	ft.	386	75	
Filter Strip	ac.	393	75	
Forest Harvest Trails & Landings	ac.	655	75[7/]	
Forest Stand Improvement	ac.	666	50[8]	
Forest Site Preparation	ac.	490	50	
Grade Stabilization Structure	no.	410	75	
Grassed Waterway	ac.	412	75	
Irrigation Land Leveling	ac.	464	75	
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	no.	447	75	
Irrigation Water Conveyance:				
Ditch and Canal Lining	ft.	428	75	
Pipeline:	ft.	430	75	
Land Smoothing	ac.	466	75	
Lined Waterway or Outlet	ft.	468	75	
Mulching	ac.	484	75	
Nutrient Management	ac.	590 [11/]		
Pasture & Hayland Planting	ac.	512	75[10/]	

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Eligible Conservation Practices

2000 EQIP 1/00

Practice Name	Unit	Practice Code	Cost/Share Rate (%)	Incentive [1/] Payment ($)
Pest Management	ac.	595 [11/]		
Pipeline	ft.	516	75	
Pond	no.	378	75	
Pond Sealing or Lining:	no.	521	75	
Precision Land Forming	ac.	462	75	
Prescribed Burning	ac.	338	50	
Prescribed Grazing	ac.	528A [11/]		
Residue Management,				
No-till & Strip-till	ac.	329A		15
Residue Management,				
Mulch-till	ac.	329B		10
Residue Management,				
Ridge-till	ac.	329C		12
Residue Management, Seasonal	ac.	344[11/]		
Riceland Water Quality Improvement	ac.	746[11/]		
Riparian Forest Buffer	ac.	391	75	
Roof Runoff Management	no.	558	75	
Sediment Basin	no.	350	75	
Streambank & Shoreline Protection	ft.	580	75	
Strip Cropping:				
Contour	ac.	585[11/]		
Field	ac.	586[11/]		
Structure for Water Control	no.	587	75	
Terrace	ft.	600	75	
Tree/Shrub Establishment	ac.	612	50[4/]	

Trough or Tank	**no.**	**614**	**75**	
Underground Outlet (with terrace)	**ft.**	**620**	**75**	
Use Exclusion	**ac.**	**472**	**75**	

2000 EQIP 1/00

Practice Name	Unit	Practice Code	Cost/Share Rate (%)	Incentive [1/] Payment ($)
Waste Storage Facility	**no.**	**313**	**75**	
Waste Treatment Lagoon	**no.**	**359**	**75**	
Waste Utilization	**ac.**	**633**		**10**
Water & Sediment Control Basin	**no.**	**638**	**75**	
Well (livestock well)	**no.**	**642**	**75** [2/]	
Well Decommissioning	**no.**	**351**	**75** [3/]	
Wetland Development or Restoration	**ac.**	**657**	**75**	
Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management	**ac.**	**644**		**5** [9/]

[1/] Maximum of 3 years
[2/] NTE maximum allowed in FY 2000 Statewide Cost Docket
[3/] NTE maximum allowed in FY 2000 Statewide Cost Docket
[4/] For land use conversion 75% (from cropland or pastureland)
For tree planting in Riparian Zone 75%
[5/] One year only, not 3 years
[6/] Cost-share for erosion control components only: broad-based dips, rolling dips, and wing ditches.
[7/] Cost-share for erosion control components only: waterbars
[8/] For release on all planted land to trees.
[9/] Limit 100 acres per contract
[10/] For land use conversion only (cropland to pastureland)
[11/] No incentive payments on statewide concerns, may be allowed for GPAs.

CHAPTER II

B. General Practice Components

General Practice Components

A. Fertilizer and Liming - For any practices contained in this handbook for which cost-shares are authorized for fertilizer and/or lime, the quantity per acre and cost-share will be approved by the district conservationist in accordance with the following:

1. Where it is determined by the district conservationist that fertilizer and/or lime is needed for the successful establishment of the vegetative cover, it must be required.

2. Cost-shares may be approved for a quantity of plant flood and/or lime within the minimum and maximum application recommended by a soils test for establishment purposes for the area to be treated or, if a soils test is not available, the quantity shall be within a minimum and maximum application range established by the district conservationist in consultation with the state agronomist.

3. The minimum and maximum application range established shall be based on generally recognized soil deficiencies of the area according to soils test or experimental results.

4. Federal cost-sharing may be approved for nitrogen (straight or mixed) only when applied in connection with the establishment of a grass or small grain cover and then not to exceed 50 pounds of N per acre.

5. Federal cost-sharing may be approved for lime only when applied in connection with the establishment of a grass, legume, or small grain cover and then not to exceed 2 tons per acre.

> ***NOTE:*** *The application of 3 tons of boiler ash per acre will be considered the equivalent of one ton of agricultural limestone per acre.*

6. Cost-sharing shall not be allowed for rock or colloidal phosphate applied to alkaline soils. In areas of known or suspected alkaline soils, a current soils test of the area to be treated must be made and must show that the soil is acid (pH < 5.8) to be eligible for cost-sharing.

7. The application of 300 pounds of basic slag or rock phosphate will be considered the equivalent of 100 pounds of 20 percent superphosphate in meeting the total plant food requirements.

8. Rock phosphate must contain not less than 28 percent total phosphorus oxide ($P_2 O_5$) and must be ground fine enough for 85 percent to pass through a U.S. Standard No. 200 sieve (wet screening).

General Practice Components

9. Liming materials from ground dolomite or high calcium limestone, ground seashells, and aragonite are eligible. Ground dolomite, high calcium limestone, ground seashells, and aragonite must contain:

   a. At least 90 percent calcium carbonate equivalent.

   b. The following materials shall meet the following screen standards:

      1) Aragonite - Ninety percent shall pass through a ten mesh sieve and five percent shall pass through a one hundred mesh sieve.

      2) Ground Limestone (including dolomite) - Ninety percent shall pass through a ten mesh sieve, fifty percent shall pass through a sixty mesh sieve, and twenty-five percent shall pass through a one hundred mesh sieve.

      3) Ground Seashells - Fifty percent shall pass through a one hundred mesh sieve.

STATEMENT ON SEED SOURCES FOR NRCS COST-SHARE PROGRAMS IN LOUISIANA

For the purpose of pine seed sources for Louisiana, the State will be divided into North and South using the northern parish boundaries of Vernon, Rapides, and Avoyelles as the North-South separation.

The following are acceptable seed sources by pine species and hardwoods for EQIP cost-share plantings:

LOBLOLLY PINE — For north Louisiana, use Louisiana or East Texas seed sources.

- For areas north of I-20, seed sources from Ashley, Union, Columbia, Lafayette, and Miller Counties, Arkansas, are also acceptable.

SLASH PINE — For south Louisiana, use South Louisiana and Southeast Texas seed sources. Slash pine is not recommended for planting in North Louisiana

LONGLEAF PINE — Use local sources or south Georgia, south Mississippi, south Alabama or north Florida.

HARDWOODS — Use Louisiana seed sources where possible or use seed sources collected within a 150 mile radius of the planting site.

CHAPTER II

C. Conservation Practices

Access Road (560)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide access while controlling runoff to prevent erosion and maintain or improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice where travelways are needed in a planned land use area.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for broad-based dips, rolling dips, wing ditches, and erosion control of roadside ditches.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for road or trail construction or maintenance.

D. **Lifespan** - These practices must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The measures must be constructed to meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV; 560, Access Road; 468, Lined Waterway or Outlet.

1) Trees, stumps, brush, roots, weeds and other objectionable material shall be removed from the work area.

2) Disturbed area will be revegetated according to Critical Area Planting (Practice 342) specifications.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75 % not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved costs

Animal Trails and Walkways (575)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide or improve access to forage and water; reduce livestock concentrations; control livestock to permit proper grazing use and planned grazing systems; and improve grazing efficiency.

B. **Apply** this practice to marsh or coastal areas where access is limited for forage grazing.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for construction of animal trails and walkways on marsh lands where:

   a. It is determined suitable and needed by the NRCS technician.
   b. This practice is part of an overall conservation plan that protects soil, water, air, animal and plant resources.
   c. The producer ***has valid permits*** (coastal use, Section 404, etc.) that are needed.
   d. Recapping, as needed, on walkways that are at least 10 years old.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for reworking or capping of walkways constructed within 10 years.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 575, Animal Trails & Walkways; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum:
- see 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for Allowable Components and Approved Cost

Brush Management (314)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to improve or restore quality plant cover to:

1) reduce sediment and improve water quality

2) increase quality of desirable plants for livestock and wildlife

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land (non-cropped) were the need is determined by an NRCS technician.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - The lifespan for this practice is 10 years, annual treatment may be necessary However, ***incentive payments will be allowed only once on each contracted acre***.

E. **Specifications**

1) Mechanical or chemical control methods according to the NRCS standards and specifications for Brush Management, Practice 314, are allowed.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $18.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payment will be allowed only once on each contracted acre. Maintenance will be required throughout the life of the contract.

3) Practice must be implemented by third year.

Composting Facility (317)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce or eliminate water, land, or air pollution caused by agricultural wastes.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas on farmland where agricultural waste from a farming operation constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for composting facilities that are needed as part of a system of the farming operation to manage agricultural wastes.

2) The waste to be composted must:

a. Be produced by the producer's farming operation

b. Not have been purchased or provided by outside sources

3) The producer may sell the composted waste material.

4) Cost-sharing shall be limited to the minimum size facility needed to solve the conservation problem.

5) Cost-sharing is not allowed for spreading.

6) The practice must be completed in accordance with the waste management plan.

7) Any installation adversely impacting historical sites or endangered species is not eligible for cost-sharing.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 15 years after the calendar year after the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 317, Composting Facility. Structural requirements must be in accordance with NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 313, Waste Storage Facility.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** - 75% not to exceed a specified maximum*. (The producer must furnish sales receipts of other supporting evidence showing the cost of materials used. The supervising technician must furnish the size, kind, and amount of material recommended).

* See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for Allowable Components and Approved Costs

Conservation Cover (327)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality, and create or enhance wildlife habitat.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land retired from agricultural production.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.
2) This practice does not apply to plantings for forage production or to critical area plantings.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications** - Follow specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 327, Conservation Cover.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

1) No incentive payments for statewide concerns, may be allowed for GPA's.
2) Incentive payments will be allowed on the same acreage for a maximum of ***three*** years.

Contour Farming (330)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce erosion and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on sloping eligible cropland where needed to control soil and water loss.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.
2) Alignment with terraces and diversions is required where these practices are used.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for the crop year.

E. **Specifications** - Follow specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 330, Contour Farming.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

1) No incentive payments for state-wide concerns, may be allowed for GPA's.
2) Incentive payments will be allowed on the same acreage for a maximum of ***three*** years.

Cover and Green Manure Crop (340)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control erosion when the major crop does not furnish adequate cover; add organic materials to the soil, and improve infiltration, aeration, and tilth.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible cropland.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for the crop year as described in FOTG, Section IV; 340, Cover and Green Manure Crop.

E. **Specifications** - Follow specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 340, Cover and Green Manure Crop.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

1) Incentive payment only, not to exceed $20.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of ***three*** years.

Critical Area Planting (342)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce erosion and the pollution of land, water, or air from sediment of agricultural or silvicultural origin.

B. **Apply** this practice to critical areas (such as gullies, roadsides, field borders, and similar problem areas) on farms which are susceptible to erosion and/or where runoff carrying substantial amounts of sediment constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Grading, shaping and filling, the establishment (including minerals) of grasses (including filter strips), trees or shrubs, and similar measures which are practical for the solution of the problem.

b. For site preparation, planting, mulching, fertilizer and lime.

c. For protective fencing, if ***used primarily*** to solve the problem.

d. For installing runoff control measures on public roadsides only where such measures are essential to solve a farm-based pollution problem.

2) Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife and enhancing the appearance of the area when establishing the protective measures.

D. **Lifespan** - The acreage shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, 342-Critical Area Planting; and 484-Mulching.

2) Fencing - See Part I of the EQIP Handbook

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Dike (356)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect land against overflow or to regulate water.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land to control water for wildlife management purposes.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for clearing and in-place earth fill.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for the construction of dikes for purposes other than fish and wildlife management.

3) Cost-sharing is authorized ***only*** for the construction of dikes used exclusively for the development of wildlife wetland habitat management.

4) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for construction of dikes used for aquaculture (catfish, crayfish, or minnow production).

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice must be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG; Practice 356, Dike; and Practice 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved costs

Diversion (362)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to divert excess water from one area for the safe disposal in other areas.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land subject to erosion from excess surface or subsurface water runoff where the problem can be corrected by such diversion facilities.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Diversions, ditches, dikes, or subsurface drains where necessary for the proper functioning of the diversion.

b. Installation of structures such as pipe, chutes, underground outlets, or other outlets, if needed for proper functioning to a ditch or dike, for more even flow, or to protect outlets from erosion.

c. Necessary leveling and filling to permit installation on an effective system.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for ditches or dikes designed to impound water for later use, or which will be a part of a regular irrigation system.

3) A protective outlet or waterway which is installed solely as an outlet for a diversion system and serves no other conservation purpose would be cost-shared as a component of this practice.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the farmer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 362 Diversions.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved costs

Fence (382)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to facilitate the application of conservation practices that treat the soil, water, air, plant, animal, and human resource concerns.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land to subdivide grazing lands to facilitate the management of grazing systems; to protect treated critical areas from harmful grazing by domestic animals and/or wildlife; to exclude grazing animals from areas that should be protected from grazing; and to restrict access to applicable facilities (i.e. ponds and waste management facilities).

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for interior fences, unless the intended purpose is for use exclusion, critical area treatment, or applicable facility protection. Temporary fence will only be cost-shared when being applied in conjunction with critical area treatment.
2) Boundary or property line fences may be eligible, as determined by the NRCS designated conservationist, if:
   - The fence is an integral part of a conservation system, such as a planned grazing system that facilitates improved management of grazing land, or protects certain areas from livestock when it is necessary for proper use of the area,
   - The area adjacent to the boundary fence is vital to the success of the conservation management system,
   - The primary purpose is not to separate ownership or exclude livestock from transportation networks, residential, commercial or industrial areas.
3) Cost-sharing will ***not*** be approved for the replacement or repair of existing fencing.
4) Cost-share rates are based on fence designs that will meet the minimum requirements listed in the 382 Fence standards and specifications in Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for 20 years or until the purpose of the fence has been met under critical area treatment. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 382, Fence; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

* F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for Allowable Components and Approved Costs
- Batteries are not an eligible cost-share item. Solar accessories are not an eligible cost-share item unless the solar component is part of the energizer unit.

Field Border (386)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control erosion, protect edges of field, and provide wildlife food and cover.

B. **Apply** this practice at field edges, especially edges of crop fields.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for site preparation, planting seeds, seedlings, and fertilizer.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Species planted and rates must comply with FOTG, Section IV; 386, Field Border.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Filter Strip (393)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to remove sediment and other pollutants from runoff or waste water.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible lands to reduce pollution and protect the environment.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for site preparation, shaping, seedbed preparation, planting, seeds, fertilizer and lime.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for herbicides used to maintain vegetative cover, minerals for enhancing production, streambank stabilization.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years if planted to grasses or 15 years if planted to trees or shrubs following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out in accordance with standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the NRCS FOTG; 393, Filter Strip.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Forest Harvest Trails and Landings (655)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to allow for the removal of forest products while minimizing on-site and off-site damage to the resources.

B. **Apply** this practice to forest land to maintain site productivity, control sheet and rill erosion, and enhance water quality.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for the installation of waterbars.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for the construction of skid trails and landings.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 5 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Place waterbars on abandoned roads, skid trails, and firebreaks where surface water runoff may be concentrated and cause erosion of the unvegetated soil.

2) Follow specifications in Practice (655) NRCS FOTG, Section IV.

3) Disturbed area will be revegetated according to Critical Area Planting (Practice 342) specifications.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Forest Site Preparation (490)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to establish a stand of trees for regeneration while considering environmental needs.

B. **Apply** this practice to crop land suitable for regeneration of a stand of trees for multipurpose forestry benefits.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) A forest management plan is required in all cases to be eligible for cost-share funds. Cost-share is limited to site preparation required for the regeneration of trees for the production of forest products where the potential productivity of the site meets or exceeds established minimum standards. Payment for this practice will be withheld until tree/shrub establishment is completed for the entire field.

2) Cost-share funds are authorized for:

a. Natural regeneration

1. Reducing or eliminating competing vegetation, including unmerchantable or undesirable trees and brush.

2. Creating soil conditions suitable for the natural establishment of seedlings representing the desired tree species. Seed sources must be adequate before site preparation is performed. Seed trees will be left until the area is regenerated.

3. Cost-share is authorized for one additional treatment on the area originally site prepared, if uncontrollable circumstances occur, such as a poor seed crop, and natural regeneration fails to become established to the required stocking level.

b. Artificial regeneration

1. Site preparation of land occupied largely by unmerchantable trees and brush, only where it is essential to permit planting desirable tree species. Technical assistance must be used to determine the suitability of the land for site preparation and the measures necessary to prevent the degradation of the site by soil erosion.

3) Cost-share funds are not authorized for:

a. Site preparation for ornamental Christmas trees or orchard trees.
b. Fencing
c. Measures to protect seedlings from wildlife destruction.

3) The area must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. Controlled grazing is permitted if recommended by a SWCD approved grazing plan which is incorporated in the Forest Management Plan.

5) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and locally registered and must be applied in accordance with authorized registered uses, label directions, and other federal and state requirements and policies.

6) Consideration must be given to protecting the resource base and the environment.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 1 year following installation and establishment. Cost-share funds must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Chemical Application for Site Preparation: Herbicides used in this practice must be labeled for forestry use and rates per acre must be approved by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry before application. Minimal acceptable rates per acre to various herbicides will be on file at the local LDAF office.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 50% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Forest Stand Improvement (666)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to release seedlings from competing vegetation, improve understory forage production aesthetics, wildlife habitat, recreation and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice if needed, to acres converted from pastureland and agriculture land to release seedlings from competing vegetation.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) A forest management plan developed by the NRCS is required to be eligible for cost-share funds. Cost-share funds are limited to the release of seedlings for the primary purpose of eliminating competing vegetation where the site meets or exceeds the established minimum standards, on all land to trees.

2) Cost-share funds are authorized for:

a. Releasing desirable seedlings from competing vegetation.

- Herbicide treatment must be completed during the active growing season of the targeted species, but no later than October 1 of the year following the previous planting season.
- Over-the-top chemical applications for pine seedlings on all land during a planting season must be completed by the following July 1.

3) Cost-shares are not authorized for:

a. Repeated prescribed burning on the same acreage.

b. Fencing

c. Measures to protect seedlings from wildlife destruction.

4) Stand must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. Grazing is permitted if recommended by a SWCD approved grazing plan which is incorporated in the forest management plan.

5) Improvements should be done in a way that preserves or improves the environment, maintains or enhances wildlife habitat and aesthetics.

6) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state and locally registered. They must be applied according to authorize registered uses, label directions, and other federal and state policies and requirements.

Grade Stabilization Structure (410)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to establish the grade and control erosion in natural or artificial channels, to prevent the formation or advance of gullies, and to enhance environmental quality and reduce pollution hazards.

B. **Apply** this practice to specific problem areas on farms where runoff of substantial amounts of sediment or runoff containing pesticides or fertilizers constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. For grade stabilization structures such as: earth embankments; mechanical spillways; full-flow or detention type structures or side-inlet structures installed to lower the water from a field elevation, a surface drain, or a waterway to a deeper channel outlet. (NOTE: Must have minimum of 1 foot over fall)

b. Only if the measures will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving soil or water quality.

c. For installing sediment retention structures on public roadsides only where such structures are essential to solve a farm-based pollution or conservation problem.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

a. Irrigation structures which are part of a distribution system for irrigation water.

b. Structures designed to control the rate of flow or to regulate the water levels in channels (refer to Practice 587).

D. **Lifespan** - The structures shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 410, Grade Stabilization Structure; and 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Grassed Waterway (412)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce existing erosion and the pollution of water on land from agricultural non-point sources.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land needing permanent sod waterway to safely convey excess surface runoff water in a manner that will reduce erosion.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for site preparation, grading, shaping, filling, establishing permanent vegetative cover, and mulching. Also cost-sharing is authorized for subsurface drains that are necessary for proper functioning of the waterway.

2) The cover may consist of sod-forming grasses, legumes, mixtures of grasses and legumes, or other types of vegetative cover that will provide the needed protection from erosion.

3) Close-sown small grains, or annuals, may be used for temporary protection if followed by eligible permanent vegetative cover established by seeding or natural revegetation.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of ten years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - Grassed waterways will be constructed to meet applicable standards and specifications contained in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, 412, Grassed Waterway, and 484, Mulching.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Shares**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Irrigation Land Leveling (464)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide more effective use of precipitation and irrigation water, facilitate water conservation, and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where reshaping of the surface to planned grades is needed to permit the application of needed soil and water conservation practices for water management, and water conservation.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized ***only*** for land currently being irrigated and for the purpose of water conservation.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for water leveling.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out according to the standards and specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 464, Irrigation Land Leveling.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (447)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to conserve farm irrigation water supplies and water quality by collecting water that runs off the field surface for reuse on the farm.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land that is currently under irrigation where water conservation is needed.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Components including ditches, pipelines, pumps, and structures that are part of a complete conservation plan for irrigation.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

a. Reorganizing a system if the primary purpose is to bring additional land under irrigation.

b. Portable and flexible pipe, cleaning a ditch, or installations primarily for the farm operator's convenience.

c. Reorganizing a temporary irrigation system.

d. Restoring a system which has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance during periods of non-use.

D. **Lifespan** - The system and water management plan must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during the lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: Federal cost-sharing will be applicable only when the tailwater recovery irrigation system is accomplished by following a complete detailed plan approved by, and performed under the supervision of, a technician of the NRCS. The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 430, Irrigation Water Conveyance (Pipeline); 388, Irrigation Field Ditch; 587, Structure for Water Control; or 428, Irrigation Water Conveyance (Ditch and Canal Lining).

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Irrigation Water Conveyance (428 & 430)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to conserve irrigation water, improve water quality, control erosion, and reduce the pollution of water or land from agricultural non-point sources.

B. **Apply** this practice to *reorganize* a permanent existing system. (Permanent existing systems include wells or other sources of water with an existing delivery system of metal pipe and/or series of irrigation canals and ditches). To qualify, the practice must be on land currently under irrigation for which an adequate supply of suitable water is available, on which irrigation will be continued, and on which a significant soil or water conservation problem exists. Land irrigated from one or more systems of interconnected "on-the-farm" ditches, pipelines and other structures and appurtenances are eligible. This may include conversion of surface irrigation ditches to underground irrigation pipelines along with fittings. This practice is also applicable for distribution of waste as part of a total waste management system.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for *reorganizing* permanently installed systems that will remain on the farm for the lifespan established, and is in a plan or a portion of a plan approved by NRCS for reorganizing an irrigation system.

   a. Irrigation pipelines, as specified in NRCS Practices 430AA, 430DD, 430EE, and 430FF, are eligible for cost-share assistance.

   b. Cost-sharing for sprinkler systems is limited to permanent mainlines.

   c. Other required components must be carried out in other years with or without cost-sharing.

   d. Ditch and canal lining as specified in NRCS practices 428A, 428B, and 428C.

2) Applicants must verify that the system was in place for the last 5 years. Verification may be by receipts and other documents. Applicant must identify the fields individually that were irrigated within the last 5 years. This will be made a part of the records and certified to by the applicant.

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

   a. Reorganizing a system if the primary purpose is to bring additional land under irrigation.

   b. Portable and flexible pipe, cleaning a ditch, or installations primarily for the farm operator's convenience.

   c. Reorganizing a temporary irrigation system.

d. Installations to convert an existing sprinkler or overhead system to a gravity system.

e. Restoring a system which has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance during periods of non-use (such as rotation cycle for rice crops).

f. A supply ditch bringing water to or carrying water through the farm. (Pipe lines or ditches from a well owned by the producer to fields where he is interested in the crops, in a capacity other than as a water lord, will not be considered as supply ditches).

g. Cooling systems.

4) Cost-sharing is authorized for necessary components of a total waste management system.

D. **Lifespan** - The system and water management plan must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during the lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - Federal cost-sharing will be applicable only when the reorganization of the irrigation system is accomplished by the following a complete detailed plan approved by, and performed under the supervision of, a technician of the NRCS. The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 430, Irrigation Water Conveyance - Pipeline; 388, Irrigation Field Ditch; 587, Structure for Water Control; or 428, Irrigation Water Conveyance - Ditch and Canal Lining.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Land Smoothing (466)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide for more effective use of precipitation and irrigation water, facilitate water conservation, and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where depressions, mounds, and other surface irregularities interfere with the application of needed soil and water conservation and management practices.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for *land currently being irrigated* and for the purpose of water conservation, or to facilitate the installation of terraces or contour cultivation.

or:

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for those lands eroding above the tolerance level (T) where the result would be a significant reduction (at least 30%) in predicted erosion rates.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out according to the design criteria for the irrigation portion of the standards and specifications in Practice 466 of the NRCS FOTG, Section IV.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Lined Waterway or Outlet (468)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide for safe disposal of runoff from other conservation practices or natural flow concentrations to control erosion.

B. **Apply** this practice to specific problem areas on farms where substantial amounts of sediments constitutes a significant pollution hazard, caused by flow concentrations creating gullies.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. For lined waterways or outlets needed to safely convey water from other conservation practices to a lower stable outlet.

b. Only if the measure will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving soil or water quality.

c. For vegetation establishment on disturbed areas.

D. **Lifespan** - The system and water management plan must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during the lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guides, Section IV; 468, Lined Waterway or Outlet.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Livestock Exclusion (472)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect, maintain, or improve the quantity and quality of plant and animal resources and maintain cover to protect the soil resource.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land where forest reproduction, soil hydrologic values, stream water quality, existing or planted vegetation can be damaged by livestock.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for construction of fencing where livestock are present and have the potential to damage plant resources.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for replacing or repairing existing fences.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice must be maintained for 10 years following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 472, Use Exclusion; 472 & 382, Fence; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

F. Maximum Federal Cost-Share

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Mulching (484)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to conserve moisture; prevent surface compaction or crusting; reduce runoff and erosion; control weeds; and establish plant cover.

B. **Apply** this practice on soils subject to erosion that have been disturbed during installation of other EQIP practices.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing - is authorized for labor and materials as specified in NRCS practice 484.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained for 1 year or until permanent vegetation is established.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice shall be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG, and Practice 484 Mulching.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Nutrient Management (590)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to supply plant nutrients for optimum forage and crop yields, minimize entry of nutrients to surface and groundwater, and to maintain or improve chemical and biological condition of the soil.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where plant nutrients are applied.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

2) Incentive payments for Nutrient Management (590) is not allowed on the same acreage where incentive payments are made for Waste Utilization (633).[1/]

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for one year following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 590, Nutrient Management; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is **July 1st**.*

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) No incentive payments for statewide concerns may be allowed for GPA's.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

[1/] Where organic by-products (agricultural wastes) are used as a soil amendment either alone or in conjunction with inorganic fertilizer, refer to Waste Utilization (633) guidelines contained in this handbook.

Pasture & Hayland Planting (512)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect the soil and reduce the pollution of water, air, or land from agricultural or silvicultural non-point sources and establish high-quality forage.

B. **Apply** this practice to establish permanent vegetative cover only when converting cropland to pasture or hayland:

1) That is subject to water erosion

2) To improve water quality

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for minerals, eligible seed, or stolons, and seedbed preparation

2) Cost-shares are authorized only for conversion of cropland to pasture. Cropland for this purpose is defined as land cropped at least two of the previous five years to a commodity crop (not ryegrass or other annuals planted for grazing purposes).

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for:

a. Clearing of rocks or other obstructions from the area to be seeded

b. Fencing

c. Converting land from a stand of manageable or partially manageable timber or pulpwood to a grass or legume cover. A "manageable stand" is defined as a stand of trees that has adequate stocking for management, good health, vigorous growth, and has not reached its optimum value.

d. Converting native pasture or range to improved pasture

4) The acreage seeded must be protected from grazing by domestic livestock until the stand is well established. Prescribed Grazing (528A) should be practiced.

5) Consideration should be given to the needs of wildlife when determinations as to seed varieties and other practice specifications are made.

6) The practice must be established by carrying out the needed operations as prescribed by the standards and specifications in Practice 512 of the FOTG.

D. **Lifespan** - The vegetative cover shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the cover during its lifespan.

E. ***Seed***

1) Seed must meet specifications as listed in Practice 512, Standards and Specifications of the FOTG.

2) Cost-shares are applicable on a clean seed basis and limited to seeding within the ranges set forth in the Practice 512, Standards and Specifications of the FOTG.

3) Inoculation of legume seed is required.

F. **Fertilization**

1) Federal cost-sharing may be approved for an application of fertilizer within the ranges established by the Practice 512, Standards and Specification, in accordance with the requirements set forth under Part I of EQIP Handbook.

2) Up to 60 days is allowed to apply nitrogen fertilizer on fescue and other winter cover grasses.

G. **Liming**

1) For lime specifications, refer to the Louisiana Agricultural Liming Materials law

2) Liming materials should be applied and worked into the soil well in advance or at the time of seeding

H. **Maximum Federal Cost-Shares**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Pest Management (595)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to develop a pest management program that is environmentally acceptable, consistent with crop production goals, and reduce pesticide pollution of surface and groundwater.

B. **Apply** this practice to all land uses where pest control is needed.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for one year following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 595, Pest Management; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is* ***July 1st***.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) No incentive payments for statewide concerns may be allowed for GPA's..

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

Pipeline (516)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to convey water for livestock.

B. **Apply** this practice where needed to effectively manage livestock.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for pipe and appurtenances, excavations, back-fillings and vegetation.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for pipe diameters of 4" or less.

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for wells or pumps.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice must be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG; Practice 516, Pipeline; and Practice 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Pond (378)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide water for livestock and/or wildlife and to maintain or improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas that provide water at locations which will achieve erosion control and prevent further or stop water quality impairment through better distribution of grazing or proper rotation of grazing and results in a better grassland management.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Construction of ponds, including fencing, if needed, to protect the facility from pollution by livestock.

b. Necessary seeding or sodding. Dams and earth spillways must be seeded or sodded with perennial vegetation, whether or not cost-share is provided.

2) No cost-sharing is authorized under this practice for any installation which is:

a. PRIMARILY for the use of recreation, fire control, dry lot feeding, corrals, barns, or crop or orchard spraying.

b. For the purpose of providing water for the farm or ranch headquarters.

3) Ponds constructed for the purpose of wildlife watering facilities will be eligible for cost-share assistance when there is no other water source such as a lake, pond, or stream within one-half mile of the proposed site.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**:

1) Ponds - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 378, Pond. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.

2) Fencing - Fencing must be constructed according to specifications in NRCS Practice 382.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for Allowable Components and Approved Costs
- Excavated ponds will have a minimum volume of 1000 cubic yards and a maximum volume of 2000 cubic yards for excavated and embankment ponds. A waiver to the minimum volume can be granted by the area engineer on a case by case basis and must be in writing.

Pond Sealing or Lining (521)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce seepage losses in ponds to an acceptable level.

B. **Apply** this practice where water loss from a pond through leakage will be of such proportion as to prevent the pond from fulfilling its planned purposes or where leakage will damage land or plant resources, cause waste of water, or environmental problems.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Ponds that meet NRCS standards and specifications for: 359, Waste Treatment Lagoons; 313, Waste Storage Facilities; 378, Ponds.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for ponds built within the previous 10 years.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for 15 or 20 years depending on the method of sealing following the calendar year of installation (see EQIP Manuel for details). Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 521, Pond Sealing or Lining.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Precision Land Forming (462)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide more effective use of precipitation, reduce erosion, and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where reshaping of the surface to planned grades is needed to permit the application of needed soil and water conservation practices for water management, erosion control, and water quality.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized ***only*** for land where reductions in slopes are needed for erosion control and water quality.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for those lands eroding above tolerance level (T) where the results would be a significant reduction (at least 30%) in predicted erosion rates.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out according to the standards and specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 462, Precision Land Forming.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Prescribed Burning (338)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control undesirable vegetation, prepare sites for planting or seeding; control plant disease; reduce fire hazards; improve wildlife habitat, forage production and forage quantity; and facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible lands where needed to facilitate the management of plants and animals for environmental purposes.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. site preparation for tree planting - refer to Practice 490, Forest Site Preparation.

b. site preparation for seeding where cultivation is not required.

c. controlling plant competition, undesirable vegetation, and excess accumulation of fuel.

d. promote the growth of desirable forage for wildlife and livestock.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice has a 5 year lifespan and is limited to one time during the life of a 5-year contract or twice during the life of a 10-year contract.

E. **Specifications** - This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the NRCS FOTG, Practice 338, Prescribed Burning.

NOTE: Producer needs to be notified of their responsibility to obtain "burn plan" as defined by state or local laws.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 50% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Prescribed Grazing (528A)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to prolong life of desirable forage species, protect soil, and protect water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible pastureland, hayland, rangeland and native pasture.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained for 5 years following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 528A, Prescribed Grazing; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is* ***July 1st***.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) No incentive payments for statewide concerns, may be allowed for GPAs.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

Residue Management (329) & (344)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce sheet and rill erosion, maintain or improve soil organic matter content and tilth, conserve soil moisture, and provide food and cover for wildlife.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land for environmental benefits.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to landowners through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained during the cropping year as described in NRCS FOTG, Section IV, Practice 329 & 344.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice will be carried out in accordance with applicable NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG:

No-till and Strip-till	329A
Mulch-till	329B
Ridge-till	329C
Seasonal	344

(**NOTE**: *The earliest date to report this practice is **March 1st**; for fall planted crops, the date is **September 1st**.)*

***NOTE:** No incentive payments for statewide concerns, may be allowed for GPAs.*

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of 3 years

Rice Land Water Quality Improvement (746)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to implement rice land water management techniques and improve the quality of discharge water entering receiving bodies of water, that in addition, will prevent the discharge of water containing high concentration of agricultural pollutants.

B. **Apply** this practice to cropland planted to rice where irrigation flood water is used and discharged into water systems as part of the farming operation causing water quality problems.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for one of the following components:

   a. Option 1: Water planting in previous crop residue

2) Specifications as listed in Paragraph D of this practice must be followed in order to earn cost-share assistance.

3) Cost-sharing for the rice land water quality improvement practice may be approved for no more than three years.

4) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally and locally registered and must be applied in accordance with authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other federal and state policies and requirements.

D. **Specifications**

Option 1: Water planting in previous crop residue

1) Maintain previous crop residue on the soil surface.

2. Apply a recommended herbicide before planting to kill volunteer vegetation.

3) Close levees and apply flood water.

4) Hold water until rice is planted.

5) No disking of residue, water leveling, or any other mechanical soil disturbing activity is allowed.

Option 2: Retention of flood water in a closed levee system for a specified period during and after soil disturbing activities.

1) Close levees after disking or other mechanical soil disturbing activities in the fall.

2) All water leveling or other mechanical soil disturbing activities conducted after flooding must be done at least 15 days prior to the release of water to allow for settling of suspended materials.

3) After draining floodwater, apply a contact herbicide to kill winter and spring vegetation, if needed.
4) Apply floodwater and plant rice.

Option 3: Clear water planting into a prepared seedbed

1) Close levees if disking or other soil disturbing activities are done in the fall.
2) If water leveling or other soil disturbing activities are performed, the water must be held for at least 15 days to allow for settling of suspended materials.
3) Prepare a dry seedbed in the spring, close levees immediately, and apply floodwater.
4) Plant rice and release clear water.

Option 4: Use of a vegetated filter area. (This applies to an area not planted to a crop and is adjacent to a designated rice field through which the rice field drains).

1) Maintain native vegetation or establish a vegetative cover on the filter area until rice is harvested on the adjacent designated field. Mowing will be allowed after June 1 for weed control. No grazing is allowed.
2) All of the water released from the designated rice filter must move by overland flow across the vegetated filter area.
3) The designated rice field cannot be smaller than 25 acres in size.
4) The size of the filter area will be at least 20% of the designated rice field but no larger than 50 acres.
5) If water leveling is needed and performed in the fall, the water must be held for at least 15 days to allow for settling of suspended materials.

E. Maximum Federal Cost-Share

1) No incentive payments for statewide concerns, maybe allowed for GPAs.
2) Incentive payments are limited to a maximum of three years.

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to remove, reduce, or buffer the effects of nutrients, sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants prior to entry into surface water and ground water recharge systems.

- To create shade to lower water temperatures which will improve habitat for aquatic organisms.
- To provide a source of detritus and woody debris for aquatic organisms and wildlife habitat.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land adjacent to permanent or intermittent streams, lakes, rivers, ponds, wetlands, and areas with groundwater recharge.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for Forest Site Preparation (490), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612), Filter Strips (393), and Forest Stand Improvement (666).

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) This practice must be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications contained in Section IV of the FOTG:

Riparian Forest Buffer (391)
Forest Site Preparation (490)
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
Filter Strip (393)
Forest Stand Improvement (666)

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

a. Pine

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

b. Hardwood

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

c. Direct Seeding

(1) Hardwood

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum

2) Forest Site Preparation (490)

a. **Silvicultural Treatments for Artificial Regeneration:**

Maximum Federal Cost Share

- 50% Not To Exceed a specifies maximum

(1) Light - Limited site preparation to prepare a seedbed favorable to artificial regeneration accomplished by disking, brush cutting, mowing, and/or scalping or sub-soiling. Chemical deadening if less than 300 diameter inches per acre or chemical application for herbaceous weed control.

(2) Medium - Site preparation for artificial regeneration accomplished by chopping. Chemical application by ground or aerial methods. Injection with greater than 300 diameter inches per acre.

(3) Prescribed Burn - Site preparation for artificial regeneration applicable to areas completely cut-over with sufficient fuel to carry a fire of such intensity that no other method is necessary. This includes areas damaged by natural disasters such as bark beetle infestations, tornadoes, hurricanes, ice and hail, and areas where all merchantable timber has been removed.

(4) Release - Chemical deadening if less than 300 diameter inches per acre. If greater than 300 diameter inches per acre. Broadcast applications by ground or aerial methods for the purpose of releasing planted seedlings from over topping competition See release on previous page for artificial regeneration.

- Over-the-top chemical applications for pine seedlings in pastures/fields during a planting season must be completed by the following July 1.
- Prescribed burns may be performed in conjunction with any of the above site preparation methods.
- The cost-share rates for the methods described above include the cost of prescribed burning performed in conjunction with the components.
- Cost-share payments are limited to one site preparation component on the same acreage.

Roof Runoff Management (558)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to prevent runoff from flowing across concentrated waste areas and barnyards to reduce pollution and erosion, improve water quality, and protect the environment.

B. **Apply** this practice where roof runoff is included in an overall plan for a waste management system.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only where roof runoff management is part of an overall plan for a waste management system.

2) Cost-sharing is authorized for erosion resistant channels, subsurface drain with rock filled trench, gutters, downspouts, and appurtenances, and outlets.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of its installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 558, Roof Runoff Management; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Sediment Basin (350)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to preserve the capacity of reservoirs, ditches, canals, diversions, and waterways; to trap sediment; and to reduce or abate pollution by providing basins for deposition and storage of silt, sand, agricultural wastes and other detritus.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land where treatment of the sediment source is impractical and where a sediment basin offers the most practical solution to the problem.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:
   a. excavation, structures, and rip-rap.
   b. necessary seeding or sodding.
   c. fencing needed to protect the facility from livestock.

D. **Lifespan** - The sediment shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Sediment Basin - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, as follows: 350, Sediment Basin; 378, Pond; and 410, Grade Stabilization Structure. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.
2) Fencing - Fencing must be constructed according to specifications in NRCS Practice 382.
3) Structures - Structures must be constructed in accordance with standards and specifications in NRCS Practice 410, Grade Stabilization Structure.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

1) Sediment Basin
2) Fencing - Refer to Practice 382, Fence in the EQIP Handbook.
3) Seeds - Refer to Part I of the EQIP Handbook.
4) Fertilizer and Lime - Refer to Part I of the EQIP Handbook.
5) Other materials as needed and recommended by the NRCS technician.
6) The applicant must furnish sales receipts and/or other supporting evidence showing cost of materials and other charges.

Streambank & Shoreline Protection (580)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to stabilize or protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries or excavated channels.

B. **Apply** this practice to natural or excavated channels where the streambanks are susceptible to erosion and to shorelines where the problem can be solved with relatively simple structures or vegetation.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. removal of fallen trees, stumps, and debris
b. removal of trees and brush that adversely affect the growth of desirable bank vegetation
c. reduction of the slope of streambanks to provide a suitable condition for vegetative protection or the installation of structural measures.
d. placement of rock with filter blanket
e. deflectors constructed of posts, piling, fencing, rock or other materials
f. fencing for protection from damage from livestock or vehicular traffic
g. vegetation for erosion control
h. bulkheads
i. revetments
j. groins
k. vegetation

D. **Lifespan** - This system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the farmer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice must be constructed to meet the requirements of the standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical guide, Section IV; 580, Streambank & Shoreline Protection.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Strip Cropping: Contour (585)

Strip Cropping: Field (586)

A. **The purpose** of these practices is to reduce erosion on cropland and improve water quality.

B. **Apply** these practices on sloping cropland where it is an essential part of the cropping system to effectively reduce soil and water losses.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

D. **Lifespan** - These practices must be maintained for 5 years following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: These practices will be carried out in accordance with applicable NRCS standards and specifications; 585, Contour Strip Cropping; 586, Field Strip Cropping; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) No incentive payments allowed for statewide concerns, may be allowed for GPAs.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of 3 years.

Structure for Water Control (587)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to control the stage, discharge, distribution or delivery of water in open channels or water use area.

B. **Apply** this practice wherever a permanent structure is needed as in integral part of an existing water system, wetland development or restoration, or wildlife wetland habitat management system.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for applicable structures for systems identified in paragraph "B" above.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for irrigation structures which are part of a distribution system ***unless*** it specifically is installed for improving irrigation efficiency or water conservation.

3) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for culverts installed for the purpose of providing vehicle or equipment access.

4) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized for interior structures for water management for rice or aquaculture production.

D. **Lifespan** - The structures shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in Section IV or the NRCS Technical Guide, Structure for Water Control 587, and Critical Area Planting, 342.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Terrace (600)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide control of erosion on cropland and reduce pollution of water, land, or air from agricultural non-point sources.

B. **Apply** this practice to cropland subject to erosion from water runoff.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Terraces and the necessary leveling and filling to permit installation of an effective system.

b. Removal of turnrows, or earth embankments and necessary leveling and filling when it is determined that the removal of such objects or leveling and filling are necessary to the establishment of an effective terrace system.

c. Materials and installation of pipe and other outlets.

d. Converting the present system to a new system ***ONLY*** if the present system is not serving its intended conservation purpose. Cost-sharing is not authorized for either of the following:

(1) to maintain the present system

(2) if the sole purpose is converting the present system because of a change in cropping patterns or equipment the farmer used.

e. Seed, fertilizer and lime

2) Contour farming must be practiced on the area to be terraced. Contour farming is authorized for incentive payment only.

3) Necessary protective outlets or grassed waterways must be installed, vegetated, and stabilized before terraces are constructed.

4) The removal of turnrows and earth embankments should be considered necessary if they interfere with the establishment of vegetative waterways, obstruct or prevent obtaining terrace and row alignment, or prevent the construction of uniform terrace channels.

5) Obstructions to be removed must be leveled and smoothed to give even, uniform slopes and must not require a depth of cut and fill to strip all topsoil from any appreciable area.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications** - The structure must be constructed to meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV; 600, Terrace; 466, Land Smoothing (Land to Be Terraced); and 342, Critical Area Planting.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to establish a stand of trees in a timber planting that will enhance environmental benefits.

B. **Apply** this practice to pastureland or cropland only, and land that is suitable for the establishment of a stand of trees that will provide multipurpose forest benefits.

C. **Eligibility**

To be eligible for C/S, this practice shall:

- improve environmental benefits to an acceptable level
- prevent degradation of environmental benefits from recurring
- be included in the approved tree planting plan

D. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) A forest management plan developed by NRCS is required to be eligible for cost-share funds.

2) Cost-share funds are authorized for site preparation of land occupied largely by unmerchantable trees and brush, only where it is essential to permit planting desirable tree species. Technical assistance must be used to determine the suitability of the land for site preparation and the measures necessary to prevent the degradation of the site by soil erosion.

3) Cost-share funds are ***not*** authorized for:

- Requests for planting trees on more than 1,000 acres
- Planting orchard or ornamental trees
- Planting for Christmas tree production
- Fencing
- Measures to protect seedlings from wildlife destruction

4) Plantings must be protected from destructive fire and destructive grazing. Grazing is permitted if recommended by a SWCD approved grazing plan which is incorporated in the forest management plan.

5) In the event of severe competition from weeds or brush, measures should be taken to release the planted stock.

6) Seedlings will be one-year nursery stock. Cuttings should be taken from 1-3 year old stock. Seedlings must conform to minimum standards established by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

7) There will be a survival of at least 350 well distributed pine seedlings, or 200 hardwood seedlings or cuttings per acre after the first growing season.

8) On-site inspections will be made ***during*** the planting operations to determine compliance of the planter and quality of the seedlings.

9) Chemicals used in performing this practice must be federally, state, and locally registered, and must be applied in accordance with authorized registered uses, label directions, and other federal and state requirements and policies.

10) Consideration must be given to protecting the resource base and the environment.

11) Seed sources - Refer to Exhibit 1, Part I of Chapter II of the EQIP Handbook.

E. **Lifespan** - This practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of establishment. Cost-share funds must be refunded if the practice is destroyed during this lifespan.

F. **Specifications**

1) Pine seedlings shall be planted on a proven and acceptable spacing which will yield an initial density of 600 to 900 trees per acre. Hardwood species and cypress shall be planted on a proven and acceptable spacing which will yield an initial density of 250 to 550 trees per acre.

2) Seedling roots and cuttings must be kept cool and moist until planted. Seedlings may be either machine or hand planted. An ample hole should be made to hold all roots without crowding or J-rooting and the soil should be packed firmly around the roots. A minimum amount of root pruning is allowed on hardwood seedlings. Pine seedlings should be set at the same depth in the soil as they were prior to lifting from nursery beds. Hardwood seedlings should be set in the soil with the root collar at or slightly below the ground line. Cuttings should be a minimum of 20 inches in length, planted with no more than 2 inches exposed above the ground line.

3) Chemical application for site preparation: Herbicides used in this treatment must be labeled for forestry use and rates per acre must be approved by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry. Minimal acceptable rates will be on file at the local LDAF offices. Over-the-top chemical applications for pine seedlings in pastures/fields during a planting season must be completed by the following July 1.

4) Sub-soiling as a component to silvicultural treatment must be performed when determined needed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and included in the forest management plan. Sub-soiling of land prior to planting shall be on centers spaced the same as tree planting space to a minimum depth of 12 inches, be performed between July 1 - December 31, and a minimum of 30 days prior to planting. Seedlings, cuttings, and seed will be planted in the furrows made by sub-soiling.

5) Plant and Release: Trees can be planted followed by an approved herbicide application considered safe for the release of newly planted pine. Herbicide recommendations are to be made by a person knowledgeable in forest herbicide use and all labels must be followed. The herbicide treatment must be completed during the active growing season of the targeted species, but no late than October 1 or the year following the previous planting season.

G. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) For land use conversion (cropland or pastureland planted to trees) or tree planting in riparian zone

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

H. **Forest Site Preparation (490)** - Refer to practice 490

Trough or Tank (614)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide watering facilities for livestock at selected locations that will protect vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing or through better grassland management for erosion control.

B. **Apply** this practice where there is a need for new or improved watering sites to permit the desired level of grassland management, to reduce health hazards for livestock, and to reduce livestock waste in streams.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized only for trough, tanks, foundations, and appurtenances that are a necessary part of a grazing management plan.

2) Cost-sharing is ***not*** allowed under this practice for wells, pumps or pipelines (Refer to Practice 516 and 642).

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 614, Trough or Tank; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Underground Outlet (620)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to dispose of excess water from terraces, diversions, surface drains, or other concentrations without causing damage by erosion or flooding.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land where: excessive surface water needs to be disposed of; a buried outlet is needed for diversions, terraces, water and sediment control basins, or similar practices; and where surface outlets are impractical because of stability problems, climatic conditions, land use, or equipment traffic.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for earthwork, pipe, and vegetation.

D. **Lifespan** - The structures shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 620, Underground Outlet.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share** -

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Use Exclusion (472)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect, maintain or improve the quantity and quality of plant and animal resources and maintain cover to protect the soil resource.

B. **Apply** this practice to eligible land where forest reproduction, soil hydrologic values, stream water quality, existing or planted vegetation can be damaged by livestock.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for construction of fencing where livestock are present and have the potential to damage plant resources.

2) Cost-sharing is *not* authorized for replacing or repairing existing fences.

D. Lifespan – The practice must be maintained for the life of the contract.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications; 472, Use Exclusion; 472 & 382, Fence; Section IV of the NRCS FOTG.

E. Maximum Federal Cost-Sharing

1) **Fencing** – 75% of the cost, not to exceed the rates found in Practice 382, Fence, in the Handbook.

Waste Storage Facility (313)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide temporary storage of solid and/or liquid agricultural waste to prevent the pollution of water, land, and air.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas on eligible land where agricultural waste from the farm constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) The practice is designed to provide facilities for temporary storing and handling agricultural waste and controlling surface run-off water to permit the recycling of the waste onto the land in a way that will abate pollution that would otherwise result from existing farming operations.

2) Cost-sharing is limited to solving the pollution problems where the farming operation causing pollution from agricultural waste is part of a total farming operation.

3) Cost-share funds are authorized for:

a. Only for waste storage facilities, waste storage tanks, waste stacking facilities, waste settling facilities, and composting facilities, land shaping, and similar measures needed as part of a system on the farm to manage agricultural wastes, and ***only*** for agricultural wastes produced ***on*** the applicant's farming operation.

b. For:

(1) Permanently installed equipment needed as an integral part of the system, such as buried main lines to carry waste from the storage facility to the field.

(2) Fencing and vegetative cover, including mulching needed to protect the facility.

(3) Leveling and filling to permit installing an effective system.

4) Cost-sharing is authorized only if the facilities will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving the soil or water quality.

5) All state laws, rules and regulations governing the use of waste storage facilities shall be strictly adhered to. The farm owner will be responsible for securing necessary permits where required.

6) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized:

a. For waste facilities to store, handle, or dispose of chemicals used in the farming operation. Chemicals include insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and other chemicals used in the farming operation.

b. For:

(1) Portable pumps or other portable equipment (such as honey-wagons, manure spreaders, portable big gun irrigators)

(2) Buildings or modifications of buildings.

(3) Spreading agricultural wastes on the land.

c. For the portion of the cost of agricultural waste structures installed under or attached to buildings which serve as part of the building or its foundation.

d. For agricultural waste facilities that do not meet local or state regulations.

e. For installation primarily for the operator's convenience.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) The practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 313, Waste Storage Facility; 317, Composting Facility, and 382, Fence. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.

2) Where recommended by the supervising technician, the minimum and maximum application range of fertilizer shall be 36 to 80 pounds of plant food (nitrogen, phosphate, potash) per acre.

3) Fencing

a. Where a fence substantially meets or exceeds these minimum requirements, the NRCS technician may approve the fence as meeting the practice requirements.

b. See Part I of the EQIP Handbook.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

1) Fencing: See Practice 382, Fence of EQIP Handbook

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

2) Seeds: See Part I of EQIP Handbook 1/

1/ Annuals are eligible for cost-sharing only when used as nurse crops in conjunction with perennials.

3) Fertilizer: See Part I of EQIP Handbook

4) Waste Storage Ponds:

a. New Facility

cubic yards of earth moved in excavating the storage pond and a borrow area, if required.

b. Modified Facility:

75% of specified maximum

c. Earthen Liner:

1) Placement and Compaction.

2) Loading and hauling of approved earthen liner material from a remote on farm borrow area

3) Purchase and delivery of off farm approved earthen liner material

4) Addition of Bentonite

d.. Waste Distribution Equipment:

See Irrigation Water Conveyance 428 & 430 in EQIP Handbook.

Waste Treatment Lagoon (359)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to biologically treat organic waste, reduce pollution and protect the environment.

B. **Apply** this practice to areas on eligible land where agricultural waste from the farm constitutes a significant pollution hazard.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) The practice is designed to provide a lagoon for storing, treating, and handling agricultural waste and controlling surface runoff water to permit the recycling of the waste onto the land in a way that will abate pollution that would otherwise result from existing farming operations.

2) Cost-sharing is limited to solving the pollution problems where the farming operation causing pollution from agricultural waste is part of a total farming operation, and ***only*** for treating agricultural wastes produced ***on*** the applicant's farming operation.

3) Cost-sharing is authorized:

a. Only for aerobic and anaerobic lagoons, and similar facilities as well as diversions, channels, waterways, outlet structures, plumbing, pipelines, land-shaping, and similar measures needed as part of a system on the farm to manage agricultural wastes.

b. For:

(1) Permanently installed equipment needed as an integral part of the system such as: permanently installed pumps, and buried mainlines to carry waste from the lagoon to the field.

(2) Fencing and vegetative cover, including mulching needed to protect the facility.

(3) Leveling and filling to permit installing an effective system.

4) Cost-sharing is authorized only if the waste treatment lagoon facilities will contribute significantly to maintaining or improving the soil or water quality.

5) All state laws, rules and regulations governing the use of waste treatment lagoons shall be strictly adhered to. The farm owner will be responsible for securing necessary permits where required.

6) Dams or levees must be seeded or sodded. Cost-shares are authorized.

7) All work, including the delivery ramp, must be completed prior to paying cost-shares earned.

8) Cost-sharing is ***not*** authorized:

a. For waste facilities to store, handle, or dispose of chemicals used in the farming operation. Chemicals include insecticides, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and other chemicals used in the farming operation.

b. For:

(1) Portable pumps or other portable equipment (such as honey-wagons, manure spreaders, portable big gun irrigators.

(2) Buildings or modifications of buildings.

(3) Spreading agricultural wastes on the land.

c. For the portion of the cost of agricultural waste structures installed under or attached to buildings which serve as part of the building or its foundation.

d. For agricultural waste facilities that do not meet local or state regulations.

e. For installation primarily for the operator's convenience.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the farmer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) The practice must meet the requirements of NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 359, Waste Treatment Lagoon; 430, Irrigation Water Conveyance - Pipeline. Seeding or sodding shall be performed in accordance with specifications for 342, Critical Area Planting.

2) Fencing

a. Where a fence substantially meets or exceeds these minimum requirements, the NRCS technician may approve the fence as meeting the practice requirements.

b. See Practice 392, Fence in the EQIP Handbook

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

1) Earthen Liner:

   a. Placement and Compaction. Existing on site material –

   b. Loading and hauling of approved earthen liner material from a remote on farm borrow area

   c. Purchase and delivery of off farm approved earthen liner material

   d. Addition of Bentonite

2) Fencing - See Practice 382, Fence of the EQIP Handbook

3) Seeds - See Part I of EQIP Handbook 1/

1/ Annuals are eligible for cost-sharing only when used as nurse crops in conjunction with perennials.

4) Fertilizer - See Part I of EQIP Handbook

5) Waste Distribution Equipment:

   a. See Irrigation Water Conveyance 428 & 430 in EQIP Handbook

8) Spoil Spreading

Waste Utilization (633)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to safely use agricultural wastes to provide fertility for crops, forage or fiber production; to improve or maintain soil structure; and to protect water resources.

B. **Apply** this practice on soils and vegetation suitable for the use of waste as a fertilizer.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided by incentive payments only.

2) Incentive payments are authorized for removal of supernate (liquid) which is a recurring requirement to maintain the water level at the design elevation of the facility.

3) Incentive payments are authorized for waste utilization as part of the total waste management system where a new facility for waste management is constructed (waste treatment lagoon, waste storage facility, or composting facility).

4) Incentive payments are authorized for the proper use of agricultural wastes generated ***on*** or ***off*** the applicant's farming operation, provided the applicant has control of the land where wastes are to be spread, and waste utilization is part of the conservation plan. Application rates shall be based on annual soil sampling of fields where agricultural wastes are applied. Additionally, agricultural wastes shall be sampled and analyzed well in advance of land application so that test results will be available to use in calibrating the spreader. Local county extension agents are available to assist with soil and waste sampling and spreader calibration.

5) Incentive payments are ***not*** authorized for waste utilization that is part of waste management system where the producer has previously received federal financial assistance for the installation of a waste treatment lagoon, waste storage facility, or composting facility.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice will be maintained for one year following the calendar year of installation.

E. **Specifications**: This practice must meet the requirements of the NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV; 633, Waste Utilization.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Shares**

1) Incentive payments, cost not to exceed $10.00 per acre.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of three years.

Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to reduce watercourse and gully erosion, trap sediment, reduce and manage onsite and downstream runoff, and improve downstream water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice on eligible land where watercourse and gully erosion are a problem, runoff and sediment damage land and improvements, and where adequate outlets are available or can be provided.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for earthwork, vegetation, and outlets.

2) This practice must be part of a conservation plan that includes conservation practices to control sheet and rill erosion.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 10 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: The practice must meet the requirements of the applicable standards and specifications in Section IV or the NRCS Technical Guide; 638, Water and Sediment Control Basin; 342, Critical Area Planting; 620, Underground Outlet; 600, Terraces.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

1) Seeds, Fertilizer, and Lime - Refer to Part I of the EQIP Handbook.

2) Outlet - Refer to Practice 620, Underground Outlet.

Well (642)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to provide water for livestock, facilitate the proper use of vegetation on rangeland and pasture, and maintain or improve water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice to installations that provide water at locations which will achieve erosion control and prevent further or stop water quality impairment through better distribution of grazing or proper rotation of grazing and results in a better grassland management.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for:

a. Construction or deepening of wells, only where this is the least cost alternative for providing livestock water ***(refer to {378} Pond or {614} Trough or Tank)***.

b. Pumping equipment (except for artesian wells).

2) Where ground water quality is such that corrosion of well screens or points is serious, suitable corrosion resistant metals must be used.

3) The well must furnish an adequate supply of water.

4) **No cost-sharing is authorized under this practice for any installation which is:**

a. PRIMARILY for the use of recreation, wildlife, dry lot feeding, corrals, or barns.

b. For the purpose of providing water for the farm or ranch headquarters.

D. **Lifespan** - The system shall be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 20 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**

1) Water Wells - This practice will be carried out according to the standards and specifications in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 642, Well; and all local, state, and federal laws.

2). Special Responsibilities

a) Any contractor who drills a well must be licensed with the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD).

b) All wells shall be registered with DOTD in accordance with state laws.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**:

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Well Decommissioning (351)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to protect water quality by preventing contamination of ground water from surface runoff into abandoned water wells.

B. **Apply** this practice to any drilled or hand-dug abandoned water well that is located on farmland or a farmstead that has been permanently discontinued from use and threatens to contaminate or pollute the groundwater aquifer.

C. **Policies** for this practice are as follows:

1) Abandoned water wells must be plugged according to Federal, State, and local health and environmental laws.

2) Priority shall be given to wells that are contaminating aquifers used for drinking water.

3) This practice is only authorized for drilled or hand-dug abandoned water wells.

4) This practice is not allowed for water wells drilled at an oil or gas drilling site to supply water for drilling activities.

5) The participant must:

a. Secure all necessary permits without C/S assistance before starting construction of the practice

b. Provide a copy of any forms, logs, or reports required by Federal, State, or local well-plugging laws to the designated technician as part of the practice completion certification

c. Ensure that the surface area disturbed during practice establishment is seeded to vegetative cover without C/S assistance.

6) Cost-sharing is authorized for the following:

a. labor costs to remove pumps, associated piping, ungrouted liner pipe, and other obstacles that must be removed before the well is plugged.

Important: All debris must be disposed of according to state and local laws and regulations without C/S assistance.

b. chlorine used for disinfectant

c. material needed to fill and seal the well, such as, cement, bentonite, or other acceptable materials
d. cement or clay materials needed to cap dug wells
e. costs to back fill dug wells with surface materials to the surface
f. other similar materials
g. necessary labor costs to plug the well

7) Cost-sharing is not authorized for the following:

a. plugging test or exploratory wells or holes, which are considered the responsibility of the landowner and should have been properly plugged immediately after completion of all testing, sampling, or other operations for which the well or hole was originally intended.
b. plugging drive (punched) water wells, which are wells in which the screen section of the casing is driven into the water formation.
c. plugging oil or gas wells
d. fees charged for water quality testing.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice shall be maintained for a minimum of 20 years after the calendar year that the well is plugged.

E. **Specifications** - The practice must meet the requirements of applicable standards and specifications in NRCS Practice 351.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Wetland Development or Restoration (657)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to establish or reestablish wetlands for the benefit of wildlife, reduce flooding, provide offsite water quality benefits, and provide groundwater recharge of acceptable water quality.

B. **Apply** this practice to sites that are capable of establishing the appropriate hydrological and vegetative characteristics necessary to meet the desired wetland functions and values.

C. **Policies**:

1) Cost-sharing is authorized for structures, ditches, and vegetation needed for wetland restoration.

D. **Lifespan** - This practice must be maintained without additional cost-sharing for a minimum of 15 years following the calendar year of installation. Cost-shares must be refunded if the producer destroys the practice during its lifespan.

E. **Specifications**: Component practices must meet the standards and specifications for the appropriate practice in the NRCS FOTG, Section IV, including: 356, Dike; 362, Diversion; 587, Structure for Water Control; 378, Pond; 342, Critical Area Planting; 382, Fencing; 484, Mulching; and 657, Wetland Development Restoration.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

- 75% not to exceed a specified maximum
- See 2000 Statewide Average Cost List for allowable components and approved cost

Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management (644)

A. **The purpose** of this practice is to keep, make, or improve habitat for waterfowl, fur bearers, and other wildlife.

B. **Apply** this practice to cropland only where water can be impounded or regulated by diking, ditching, or flooding. Fields must be flooded on or before _____ and must remain until _____.

C. **Policies**:

1) Financial assistance will be provided to producers through incentive payments.

2) Incentive payments are ***not*** allowed for Residue Management, Seasonal (344) on the same acreage during the same year that incentive payments for this practice (644) are allowed.

D. **Lifespan** - The practice must be maintained for the season as defined in NRCS FOTG, Section IV, Practice 644.

E. **Specifications**: This practice will be carried out in accordance with NRCS FOTG, Section IV; 644, Wildlife Wetland Habitat Management.
NOTE: *The earliest date to report this practice is* ***April 1st***.

F. **Maximum Federal Cost-Share**

1) Incentive payments only, not to exceed ***$5.00 per acre and not to exceed 100 acres per contract per year***.

2) Incentive payments will be allowed for a maximum of 3 years.

CHAPTER II

D. Statewide Average Cost List

CHAPTER III

A. Statewide Natural Resource Priority Concerns

Outside Geographic Priority Areas

EQIP 2000 APPLICATION EVALUATION WORKSHEET 1/00

II. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS POTENTIAL POINTS

1. Reduce Water Erosion (sheet, rill, and gully); (No Maximum)

2. A. (**Gully Erosion**) 1 point for each 10 tons erosion reduction per year

- B. (**Sheet and Rill Erosion**)
  - 1 point for every 10 acres where before erosion is≤ T (.1 x acre)
  - 2 points for every 10 acres where before erosion is >T & <2T (.2 x acre)
  - 3 points for every 10 acres where before erosion is ≥2T & 3T (.3 x acre)
  - 5 points for every 10 acres where before erosion is ≥3T (.5 x acre)

2. Reduce Tillage Operations (cropland).....0 - 20

- 1 point for each 10 acres of ridge-till or mulch-till; **MAX. 10 POINTS**
- 1 point for each 5 acres of no-till; **MAX. 20 POINTS**

3. Reduce Water Use and Increase Irrigation Efficiency.....0 - 50

- 2 points for each 1% increase in irrigation efficiency; **MAX. 25 POINTS**
- 2 points for each acre foot of water saved* **MAX. 25 POINTS**

*Note: See Supplemental Instructions

4. Grassed Waterway.....0 - 15

- 1 point for each 25 linear feet of waterway installed; **MAX. 15 POINTS**

5. Establish Filter Strips for Water Quality Improvement.(cropland only).....0 - 15

- 1 point for each 25 linear feet of filter strip; **MAX. 15 POINTS**

6. Reduce Sedimentation of Wetlands.....0 – 10

- 1 point for each 10 tons reduction of sediment entering non-channeled vegetated wetland within 1/2 mile; (use RUSLE soil loss calculations) **MAX. 10 POINTS**

7. Grazing Management..... 10

- Planned grazing system with rotation.....**MAX. 10 POINTS**
- 2 points for each additional pasture planned

8. Mechanical Harvest and/or Clipping of Pastures at Proper Stubble Heights and Synchronized with Wildlife Habitat Demands (Must be the Entire Field).....10.

- Less than or equal to 20 acres**.....5**
- Greater than 20 acres**.....10**

9. Brush Management Planned; Existing Brush Problem (woody vegetation).....5

- > 15% area coverage of planning unit

10. Animal Trails and Walkways Planned.....5

- coastal marsh only, must have valid permits in hand

11. Waste Utilization.....0 - 50

- 1 point for each 3 acres of waste utilization; **MAX. 50 POINTS**.
- Waste must be produced and applied on farm.

12. Land Use Conversion.....0 - 50

- Cropland to introduced grasses or pine/softwoods; 1 point for each 5 acres; **MAX. 50 POINTS**
- Cropland to native grasses or mixed hardwoods, 1 point for each 2 acres; **MAX. 50 POINTS**

13. Maintaining existing Riparian Forest Buffers (all landuses).....0 - 10

- 1 point for each 100 linear feet of buffer maintained; **MAX. 10 POINTS**

14. Establish Wooded Wildlife Corridor Connecting Fragmented Forestland Areas.....0 - 20

- 1 point for each 50 linear ft. of wooded corridor established; **MAX. 20 POINTS**

15. Rare/Native Habitat Restoration.....0 - 20

- 2 points for each 5 acres of habitat restored; (i.e., longleaf pine, native prairie) **MAX. 20 POINTS**

16. Contract Acres Within the Drainage Area of a Scenic Stream.....0 - 10

- Award points only for areas which drainage enter the scenic stream portion of the waterbody between the points designated by the State.
- 1 point for each 10 acres enrolled; **MAX. 10 POINTS**

17. Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat.....15

- For approved practices and locations described on Attachment A **MAX. 15 points**

18. Located Within Approved LDEQ Wellhead Protection Area.....30

19. Size of Existing Livestock Operation [concentrated (confined) livestock or poultry]*.....0 - 100

Number of animal units	With Existing Adequate Waste Management Systems (waste storage structure, and composter or waste treatment lagoon)	Without Existing Waste Management Systems (waste storage structure, and composter or waste treatment lagoon)
> 150	25	100
100 - 150	20	90
50 - 00	15	80
< 49	10	70

NOTE: *See Item 21 Supplemental Instructions Applications Evaluation Worksheet

20. Producer will plug abandon well according to FOTG (Practice 351 Well Decommission).....20

21. Agrees to develop and implement a RMS Conservation Plan 20

- Conservation plan developed for entire tract(s). All tract(s) acreage will be included in the contract. **MAX. 20 POINTS**

22. Located Within a Waterbody Sub-segment that is Partially or Not Meeting Designated Uses 0 - 10

NOTE: Overall degree of support according to 1006 Section 305 (b) Report

- Section 305 (b) report **MAX. 10 POINTS**
- Partially meeting - 5 points
- Not meeting - 10 points

23. Wildlife Wetland Habitat Improvement ((Practice 644).(Cropland Only))..... 0 - 10

- 1 point for each 5 acres of shallow water area for wildlife established;
- Minimum of 1 point for acres less than 5. **MAX. 10 POINTS**

24. Riparian Areas Restored to Woodland.....0 - 50

- 1 point for each 50 linear ft. of Riparian Forest Buffer (Practice 391) established; **MAX. 50 POINTS**

25. Assist producer under a notice of violation to comply with environmental laws 75

- Producer must schedule applicable practices to receive points; and must provide evidence of notification **75 POINTS**

VII. Other Concerns or Adjustments

If a landuser includes in his plan and agrees to install any of the following practices; positive/negative adjustments can be made to the applicants (CC1201) score/index computed above. If a practice's points appear as a negative number, subtract that amount from the computed score/index. If a practice's points appear as a positive number, add that amount to the computed score/index.

Practices	Adjustments
Composting Facility	- 50
Field Border	-5
Filter Strip	-5
Grade Stabilization Structure (per structure)	-3
Grassed Waterway	-5
Irrigation Pipeline	-5
Critical Area Treatment	-5
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	-10
Riparian Forest Buffer	-20
Waste Storage Facility	- 50
Waste Treatment Lagoon	- 75
Well Decommissioning	- 5
All Practices With Incentive Payment, Requested by Themselves	+ 20

CCC-1201

U.S. Department of Agriculture (12-11-98)

Commodity Credit Corporation Form Approved

OMB NO. 0560-0174

CROPLAND: Statewide Resource Concern Application Evaluation Worksheet

Applicant

Name: _____ **Date**_____

Address: _____

Application No: **Farm No.** **Tract No.(s)**

I. Land Use	Total Acres	Acres Needing Treatment	Acres to be Treated

II. Major Environmental Concerns and Criteria (Maximum # of Points Allowed)	Benchmark	After	Points
1. Reduce water erosion			
2. Reduce tillage operations (20)			
3. Reduce water use (50)			
4. Grassed waterway (15)			
5. Establish filter strips (15)			
6. Reduce sedimentation of wetlands (10)			
7. Grazing management (10)			
8. Mechanical harvest of forage synchronized (10)			
9. Brush management (5)			
10. Animal trails and walkways planned (5)			
11. Waste utilization (50)			
12. Land use conversion (50)			
13. Maintain riparian forest buffer (10)			
14. Establish wooded wildlife corridor (20)			
15. Rare/native restoration (20)			
16. Contract within drainage of scenic stream (10)			
17. Threatened and endangered species habitat (15)			
18. Within approved LDEQ wellhead protection area (30)			
19. Size of livestock operation (100)			
20. Abandoned well plugging, Well Decommissioning (20)			
21. Develop RMS plan (20)			
III. Other Factors (Maximum # of Points Allowed)			
22. Meeting designated uses - 305b report (10)			
23. Wildlife wetland habitat improvement (10)			
24. Riparian area restored to woodland (50)			
25. Assist producer comply (75)			

IV. Total Environmental Points = (After - Benchmark) + Other	Total Points

V. Estimated Program Financial Assistance Costs	Amount
Use page two of form to record estimated costs for each conservation practice and those used in adjusting index.	

VI. Applicant's score or index	

VII. Other adjustments or concerns	
VIII. Adjusted index	

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Form Approved
OMB NO. 0560-0174
Page 2

Application Evaluation Worksheet

Applicant

Name: _____

Address: _____

Application No _____ Farm No. _____ **Tract No(s).** _____

IX. Conservation Practice Number	Practice Extent	Estimated 100% Cost of Practice or Component	Cost-share Rate Requested by Applicant in 1% Increments	Contract Costs
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
Total Acres:	**0**			
Total Cost:				**0**
X. Remarks				

XI. Designated Conservationist

_____ _____

(Signature) (Date)

XII. Applicant Agreement with Indicated Practices and Payment Levels

_____ _____

(Signature) (Date)

Note: The applicant has ten calendar days, after the date of signing the form, to modify the conservation practices, practice amount, or payment rates or levels requested, if desired. This form is not an authorization for the applicant to begin application of the requested conservation practices.

Privacy Act Statement: The following statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 522a). The authorities for requesting the information to be supplied on this form are: 16 U.S.C. 3801 et. Seq. (Food Security Act of 1985, as amended), and the regulations promulgated thereunder. The information requested is necessary for the evaluation of an application, development and implementation of a conservation plan as the basis for satisfying program eligibility and compliance requirements, and for providing technical, educational, or financial assistance under the previously mentioned authorities. Furnishing this information is voluntary; however, failure to furnish correct , complete information will result in the withholding or withdrawal of such technical, educational, or financial assistance. This information may be furnished to other USDA agencies, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Justice, or other State or Federal law enforcement agencies, or in response to orders

Public Burden Statement: According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1985, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB Control Number for this information 0560-0174. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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(12-11-98
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OMB-NO. 00560-0174

FORESTLAND: Statewide Resource Concern

Application Evaluation Worksheet

JANUARY 2008

Applicant

Name: _____

Address: _____

Application No. _____ **Farm No.** _____ **Tract No(s).** _____

I. Land Use	Total Acres	Acres Needing Treatment	Acres to be Treated	

II. Major Environmental Concerns and Criteria (Maximum # of Points Allowed)	Benchmark	After	Points
1. Reduce water erosion			
2. Reduce tillage operations (20)			
3. Reduce water use (50)			
4. Grassed waterway (15)			
5. Establish filter strips (15)			
6. Reduce sedimentation of wetlands (10)			
7. Grazing management (10)			
8. Mechanical harvest of forage synchronized (10)			
9. Brush management (5)			
10. Animal trails and walkways planned (5)			
11. Waste utilization (50)			
12. Land use conversion (50)			
13. Maintain riparian forest buffer (10)			
14. Establish wooded wildlife corridor (20)			
15. Rare/native restoration (20)			
16. Contract within drainage of scenic stream (10)			
17. Threatened and endangered species habitat (15)			
18. Within approved LDEQ wellhead protection area (30)			
19. Size of livestock operation (100)			
20. Abandoned well plugging, Well Decomissioning (20)			
21. Develop RMS plan (20)			
III. Other Factors (Maximum # of Points Allowed)			
22. Meeting designated uses - 305b report (10)			
23. Wildlife wetland habitat improvement (10)			
24. Riparian area restored to woodland (50)			
25. Assist producer comply (75)			

IV. Total Environmental Points = (After - Benchmark) + Other	Total Points

V. Estimated Program Financial Assistance Costs	Amount
Use page two of form to record estimated costs for each conservation practice and those used in adjusting index.	
VI. Applicant's score or index	

VII. Other adjustments or concerns	
VIII. Adjusted index	

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Page 2

Application Evaluation Worksheet

Applicant

Name: _____

Address: _____

Application No. _____ Farm No. _____ Tract No(s). _____

IX. Conservation Practice Number	Practice Extent	Estimated 100% Cost of Practice or Component	Cost-share Rate Requested by Applicant in 1% Increments	Contract Costs
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
Total Acres:	**0**			
Total Cost:				**0**
X. Remarks				
XI. Designated Conservationist				
_____ (Signature)			_____ (Date)	
XII. Applicant Agreement with Indicated Practices and Payment Levels				
_____ (Signature)			_____ (Date)	

Note: The applicant has ten calendar days, after the date of signing the form, to modify the conservation practices, practice amount, or payment rates or levels requested, if desired. This form is not an authorization for the applicant to begin application of the requested conservation practices.

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LIVESTOCK: Statewide Resource Concern

Application Evaluation Worksheet

Applicant

Name: _____

Address: _____

Application No. _____ **Farm No.** _____ **Tract No(s).** _____

I. Land Use	Total Acres	Acres Needing Treatment	Acres to be Treated

II. Major Environmental Concerns and Criteria (Maximum # of Points Allowed)	Benchmark	After	Points
1. Reduce water erosion			
2. Reduce tillage operations (20)			
3. Reduce water use (50)			
4. Grassed waterway (15)			
5. Establish filter strips (15)			
6. Reduce sedimentation of wetlands (10)			
7. Grazing management (10)			
8. Mechanical harvest of forage synchronized (10)			
9. Brush management (5)			
10. Animal trails and walkways planned (5)			
11. Waste utilization (50)			
12. Land use conversion (50)			
13. Maintain riparian forest buffer (10)			
14. Establish wooded wildlife corridor (20)			
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18. Within approved LDEQ wellhead protection area (30)			
19. Size of livestock operation (100)			
20. Abandoned well plugging, Well Decommissioning (20)			
21. Develop RMS plan (20)			
III. Other Factors (Maximum # of Points Allowed)			
22. Meeting designated uses - 305b report (10)			
23. Wildlife wetland habitat improvement (10)			
24. Riparian area restored to woodland (50)			
25. Assist producer comply (75)			

V. Total Environmental Points = (After - Benchmark) + Other	Total Points

V. Estimated Program Financial Assistance Costs	Amount
Use page two of form to record estimated costs for each conservation practice and those used in adjusting index.	
VI. Applicant's score or index	
VII. Other adjustments or concerns	
VIII. Adjusted index	

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Application Evaluation Worksheet

Applicant

Name: _____

Address: _____

Application No. _____ **Farm No.** _____ **Tract No(s).** _____

IX. Conservation Practice Number	Practice Extent	Estimated 100% Cost of Practice or Component	Cost-share Rate Requested by Applicant in 1% Increments	Contract Costs
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
				0
Total Acres:	**0**			
Total Cost:				**0**

X. Remarks

XI. Designated Conservationist

_____ _____
(Signature) (Date)

XII. Applicant Agreement with Indicated Practices and Payment Levels

_____ _____
(Signature) (Date)

Note: The applicant has ten calendar days, after the date of signing the form, to modify the conservation practices, practice amount, or payment rates or levels requested, if desired. This form is not an authorization for the applicant to begin application of the requested conservation practices.

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Public Burden Statement: According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1985, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB Control Number for this information 0560-0174. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of

information.

LOUISIANA

EQIP

HANDBOOK

STATEWIDE NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITY CONCERNS

Supplemental Instructions for Application Evaluation Worksheet CCC-1201

Fill in applicant's ***name, address,*** and ***application number***

I. Complete one CCC-1201 for each statewide resource concern (cropland, livestock or forestland). List applicant's acreage for each primary land use as follows:

Livestock
Cropland
Forestland

- ***Ranking will be completed based on planned landuse. For example land converted from cropland to pasture will be ranked under livestock concern.***

- ***Use the appropriate form CCC-1201 for each of the three Statewide Resource Concerns. One contract application may have up to three worksheets (1201s). GPAs will have only one worksheet (1201) for each contract application. This acreage will also be listed under the appropriate land use. If at least half of the proposed contract acres within a wellhead protection area, the entire field is considered within this wellhead area. EXHIBIT 1, Chapter III-A, has listed the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) approved wellhead protection areas***

- ***Pen and ink changes to the Application Evaluation Worksheet (CCC-1201) will not be allowed. In cases where a producer wishes to make changes within the allowable 10 day period, a new CCC-1201 will be generated with the applicable signatures and dates.***

- ***There can be only one contract per tract. One application can result in several contracts. The producer makes the final decision on what land area is desired in a proposed contract. Develop one worksheet (1201) for each statewide resource concern in a proposed contract.***

- ***Producers with land within an approved and funded Geographic Priority Area (GPA #1-17 in Chapter I) must apply for GPA funding only. Producers with land that occurs outside of these GPAs must apply for funding under the Statewide Natural Resource Priority Concerns. Producers with land inside and outside of GPAs may apply for both funding sources. No more than one contract can exist on the same tract (510.12).***

- ***If a portion of a field or tract is within an approved and funded Geographic Priority Area, the entire field or tract may be eligible and included in the GPA contract. (Reference EQIP Manual, Part 515.111f).***

- ***Fields not in priority areas but directly adjacent to priority areas, or fields not affected by significant statewide natural resource concerns, and indirectly affected by these concerns may be determined eligible by NRCS.***

II. & III. Environmental concerns and criteria and other factors:

Twenty-five factors will be used to develop the total environmental points entered in Section IV. EQIP contract acres ***only*** are used to compute scores for each factor ***except*** for factor 21 which involves entire tract(s).

Factors: Round-off point values to the closest whole number (Ex: 4.4 rounded to 4 and 4.5 rounded to 5)

1) Reduce water erosion. Compute before (benchmark) and after (EQIP plan) erosion to include sheet and rill and gully erosion. Assign one point for each 10 tons of gully erosion reduced by the EQIP plan. For sheet and rill erosion follow the guidance on the Application Evaluation Worksheet. Enter score in ***point*** column.

2) Enter score for residue management (no-till or ridge-till, mulch-till) for before conditions under ***benchmark*** column, and score for residue management with EQIP plan under ***after*** column. Subtract benchmark score from after score and place this value to right of ***point*** column.

3) Compute before and after irrigation water use. Compute percent increase in irrigation efficiency and assign 2 points for each percent increase. Enter score in ***point*** column.
In order to make the ranking of applications which contain one of these three practices feasible for field personnel, the following information is recommended to be used in developing the score:

1. Irrigation Land Leveling (464)

Case 1: If irrigation land leveling is planned on a furrow irrigated area without reducing the current row lengths, use the following values:

Efficiency before	55%
Efficiency after	62%
Efficiency increase	7%
Water reduction	.1 Ac.-Ft. per year per 1 acre leveled

Case 2: If irrigation land leveling is planned on a furrow irrigated area and the field currently has row lengths greater than 1320 feet and the field is planned for subdivision in order to reduce the row lengths to less than 1320 feet, use the following values:

Efficiency before	55%
Efficiency after	70%
Efficiency increase	15%
Water Reduction	.2 Ac.-Ft. per year per 1 acre leveled

Case 3 If irrigation land leveling is planned on an area where rice is currently irrigated and the area has not previously been land leveled, use the following values:

Efficiency before	55%
Efficiency after	85%
Efficiency increase	30%
Water Reduction	.6 Ac.-Ft. per year per 1 acre leveled

2. Irrigation System – Tailwater Recovery System (447)

Every tailwater recovery system should be evaluated on a case by case basis. This evaluation should include input from the area engineer in order to ascertain the values for the efficiency increases and the volume of water saved.

3. Irrigation Water Conveyance – Pipeline (430)

Case 1: If an existing irrigation canal or flume is planned to be replaced by an irrigation pipeline, use the following values:

Efficiency before	45%
Efficiency after	65%
Efficiency increase	20%

Water Reduction 26 Ac.-Ft. per year per 1000' of canal replaced

Case 2: If a relatively long (greater than 1320') above ground gated pipe or polypipe lateral is enhanced by installing underground irrigation pipeline to reduce the length of the above ground laterals, use the following values:

Efficiency Increase 1% per 400' of above ground lateral replaced

Water Reduction 1.5 Ac.-Ft. per year per 1000' of above ground lateral replaced

4) Grassed waterway installed in EQIP plan. Enter score in ***point*** column.

5) Filter strips installed only in cropland in EQIP plan: Enter score in ***point*** column.

6) Reduce sedimentation in Wetlands: If eroded soil from the contract acres is deposited as sediment in a non-channelized vegetated wetland (excluding farmed wetlands) within ½mile of the contract acres, enter a score. Use the same RUSLE calculations used in Factor 1 and assign one point for each 10 tons of soil (erosion) difference between before and after conditions. Enter score in ***point*** column.

7) Enter present number of pastures for grazing management for before conditions under ***benchmark*** column and planned number of pastures for EQIP plan conditions in ***after*** column. Subtract benchmark score from after score, multiply by 2 and place this value in the ***point*** column.

8) Wildlife species of concern for the producer. For example turkey, no cutting during April, May or June. For quail, no cutting during June, July or August..

9) If brush management is planned for EQIP and these fields have more than 15% aerial coverage of brush existing now, assign 5 points and enter in *point* column.

10) *For coastal marsh lands only*. Producer must have proper permits in hand. If cattle walkways are existing, enter 2 under ***benchmark*** column. If walkways are planned for installation, enter under ***after*** column. Subtract ***benchmark*** from ***after*** and enter the value in the ***point*** column.

11) Enter ***benchmark*** and ***after*** score and place difference between these two values in the ***point*** column

12) Enter points under ***point*** column.

13) Riparian Forest Buffer must meet Practice 391 specifications. Points are assigned for each side of watercourse where buffer occurs.

14) Wooded wildlife corridor must be at least 66 feet wide.

17) Assign 15 points and enter in *point* column if EQIP plan includes practices as described and for locations identified on maps on attachment A.

18) Assign 30 points where at least one-half of the proposed contract acres are within an approved and designated LDEQ wellhead protection area. Enter points under ***point*** column.

19-20) Enter points in ***point*** column

19) Points will be awarded only if an adequate waste management facility is to be installed. ***Animal Unit*** means a unit of measurement for any animal feeding operation calculated by adding the following numbers:

1) The number of slaughter and feeder cattle and dairy heifers multiplied by 1.0, plus
2) The number of mature dairy cattle multiplied by 1.4, plus
3) The number of swine weighing over 55 pounds multiplied by 0.4, plus
4) The number of sheep multiplied by 0.1, plus
5) The number of horses multiplied by 2.0
6) The number of broilers multiplied by .002 (average weight 2 lbs.)
7) The number of poultry breeders multiplied by 0.008 (average wt. 8 lbs.)
8) The number of laying hens multiplied by 0.004 (average wt. 4 lbs.)
9) **The number of alligators multiplied by 0.015(average wt. 15 lbs.)**

20-23) Enter points under ***YES*** column.

24) Points are assigned for each side of watercourse where buffer is planned.

25) 75 points will be assigned only to those producers who are under a *notice of violation* order from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LAF), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or Louisiana DOTD.

IV. **Develop one score** for environmental points for each of the three statewide resource concerns.

V. **Enter total cost** for all practices, taken from Section IX.

VI. **Compute Offer Index (rank):**

$$\frac{\text{EQIP contract costs}}{\text{Total environmental pts.}} = \text{Offer Index (rank)}$$

VII. **Other concerns or adjustments:**

Practices	Adjustments
Composting Facility	-50
Field Border	-5
Filter Strip	-5
Grade Stabilization Structure (per structure)	-3
Grassed Waterway	-5
Irrigation Pipeline	-5
Critical Area Treatment	-5
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	-10
Riparian Forest Buffer	-20
Waste Storage Facility	-50
Waste Treatment Lagoon	-75
Well Decommissioning	-5
Practices with Incentive Payments Requested by Themselves	**+20**

- Negative points are awarded once for each individual practice but points can be awarded for more than one practice. {Example: If the applicant is going to install both a grassed waterway and a grade stabilization structure they would get a total adjustment of (- 10 points).} The maximum amount of positive points that can be awarded is 20 points.

- Critical Area Treatment - Gully Erosion $\geq$ 20 tns

VIII. Adjusted index

- Adjusted index = offer index + other concerns or adjustments

IX. List those conservation practices and extent that will be part of the EQIP contract. Enter estimated cost for each practice. The EQIP contract cost required by the producer for each practice and ***not*** the ***total practice cost***. Enter the cost-share rate or incentive payment level *requested by the applicant.*

- For Statewide Resource Concerns *outside geographic priority area*, total the estimated costs for the appropriate concern: livestock, cropland, and forestland.
- For Geographic Priority Areas, total the estimated cost by: Livestock concerns
  Other concerns

X. Have the producer sign and date the form CCC-1201. These payment levels requested by the applicant cannot be charged after the form CCC-1201 and ranking report are submitted to FSA. Pen and ink changes to the Application Evaluation Worksheet (ccc-1201) will not be allowed. In cases where a producer wishes to make changes within the allowable 10 day period, a new CCC-1201 will be generated with applicable signatures and dates.

XI. Designated District Conservationist signature.

Approved Wellhead Protection Program

1. Tallulah
2. Winnsboro
3. Rayville
4. Delhi
5. Waterproof
6. Plaucheville
7. Jena
8. White Castle
9. Campti
10. Colfax
11. Wisner
12. Montgomery
13. Forest Hill
14. Pollock
15. LaSalle W.D. #1
16. Marksville
17. Bastrop
18. Gilbert
19. Minden
20. Mermentau
21. Abbeville
22. Broussard
23. Alexandria
24. New Iberia
25. DeRidder
26. Coushatta
27. Mansfield
28. Village Water System
29. Lafayette
30. Rayne
31. Hessmer
32. Breaux Bridge
33. Jonesboro
34. Jennings
35. Lake Charles
36. Calcasieu Parish W.D. #1 (Moss Bluff)
37. Vinton
38. Calcasieu Parish W.D. #9 (Carlyss)
39. Calcasieu Parish W.D. #2 (Mossville)
40. Calcasieu Parish W.D. #5
41. Calcasieu Parish W.D. #7
42. Calcasieu Parish W.D. #4
43. Fort Polk
44. Church Point
45. Lake Arthur
46. Opelousas
47. DeQuincy
48. Sulphur
49. Mamou
50. Westlake
51. Cheneyville
52. Prairie Ronde Water System
53. North Franklin Waterworks
54. Epps
55. Moreauville
56. St. Joseph
57. Liddieville
58. St. Landry Consolidated #2
59. Pioneer-Darnell Water System
60. Leonville
61. Palmetto
62. Powhatan Waterworks
63. Arnaudville
64. Morrow Water system
65. Grand Coteau
66. Monticello Water System
67. Robeline-Marthaville
68. Jeanerette
69. Maurice
70. Lena Water System
71. Urania
72. Dry Prong
73. Couteau Water System
74. Avoyelles Water District #1
75. Zone Two Water System
76. Southwest Allen Parish W.D. # 2
77. South Grant Water System
78. Mangham
79. Mer Rouge
80. Delcambre
81. United Water System
82. Milton Water System
83. Ward 3 Avoyelles Waterworks District
84. St. Francisville
85. Bunkie
86. South Bonne Idee Water System
87. Kolin – Ruby Wise Water District 11A
88. Rapides Parish Water Works District #3
89. Rural Franklinton Water Corp.
90. Pollock Area Water System

91. West Winnsboro
92. Grayson
93. Clarks
94. Siscily Island
95. Leland W.S. Inc.
96. Columbia Heights W.D.
97. S. DeSoto W.S. Inc
98. Atlanta W.S.
00. W. Grant Water Assos.
100.Goldonna
101.Hebert W.S.
102.Savoy-Swords W.S.
103.South Oakdale W.S.
104.Ward Four Water District
105.West Allen Parish Water District
106.Simmesport
107.North of Crowley Water Corp.
108. Beauregard Parish Water District #2
109. Greenwood
110.Southeast Hodge Water System
111.Sandy Lake
112.East Columbia Water System
113.Pinehill
114.Morehouse Consolidated
115.Walnit Bayou
116.Red Oak W.S.
117.City of Pineville
118.City of Pineville (east wells)
119.City of Pineville (west wells
120.City of Eunice
121.City of Zachary (east wells)
122.City of Zachary (west wells)
123.Town of Baker

APPLICATION EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Maximum Points Possible

1/00

NUMBER	CROPLAND	LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION	FORESTLAND
1	50	50	50
2	20	--	--
3	50	--	--
4	15	15	--
5	15	15	15
6	10	10	10
7	--	10	10
8	--	10	--
9	--	5	--
10	--	5	--
11	--	50	--
12	--	50	50
13	10	10	10
14	20	20	--
15	20	20	20
16	10	10	10
17	15	15	15
18	30	30	30
19	--	100	--
20	20	20	20
21	20	20	20
22	10	10	10
23	10	--	--
24	50	50	--
25	75	75	75
TOTAL	450	610	355

CHAPTER III

B. Geographic Priority Areas

EQIP 2000 APPLICATION EVALUATION WORKSHEET

1/00

II. ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS POTENTIAL POINTS

1. Reduce Water Erosion (sheet, rill, and gully); (No Maximum)

- A. (**Gully Erosion**) 1 point for each 10 tons erosion reduction per year
- B. (**Sheet and Rill Erosion**)
  - 1 point for every 10 acres where before erosion is ≤ T (.1 x acre)
  - 2 points for every 10 acres where before erosion is >T & <2T (.2 x acre)
  - 3 points for every 10 acres where before erosion is ≥2T & 3T (.3 x acre)
  - 5 points for every 10 acres where before erosion is ≥3T (.5 x acre)

2. Reduce Tillage Operations (cropland).....0 - 20

- 1 point for each 10 acres of ridge-till or mulch-till; **MAX. 10 POINTS**
- 1 point for each 5 acres of no-till; **MAX. 20 POINTS**

3. Reduce Water Use and Increase Irrigation Efficiency.....0 - 50

- 2 points for each 1% increase in irrigation efficiency; **MAX. 25 POINTS**
- 2 points for each acre foot of water saved* **MAX. 25 POINTS**

*Note: See Supplemental Instructions

4. Grassed Waterway.....0 - 15

- 1 point for each 25 linear feet of waterway installed; **MAX. 15 POINTS**

5. Establish Filter Strips for Water Quality Improvement.(cropland only).....0 - 15

- 1 point for each 25 linear feet of filter strip; **MAX. 15 POINTS**

6. Reduce Sedimentation of Wetlands.....0 – 10

- 1 point for each 10 tons reduction of sediment entering non-channeled vegetated wetland within 1/2 mile; (use RUSLE soil loss calculations) **MAX. 10 POINTS**

7. Grazing Management..... 10

- Planned grazing system with rotation.....**MAX. 10 POINTS**
- 2 points for each additional pasture planned

8. <u>Mechanical Harvest and/or Clipping of Pastures at Proper Stubble Heights and Synchronized with Wildlife Habitat Demands (Must be the Entire Field)</u>.....10.

- Less than or equal to 20 acres**……..……5**
- Greater than 20 acres**……..……10**

9. Brush Management Planned; Existing Brush Problem (woody vegetation).....5

- > 15% area coverage of planning unit

10. Animal Trails and Walkways Planned.....5

- coastal marsh only, must have valid permits in hand

11. Waste Utilization.....0 - 50

- 1 point for each 3 acres of waste utilization; **MAX. 50 POINTS**.
- Waste must be produced and applied on farm.

12. Land Use Conversion.....0 - 50

- Cropland to introduced grasses or pine/softwoods; 1 point for each 5 acres; **MAX. 50 POINTS**
- Cropland to native grasses or mixed hardwoods, 1 point for each 2 acres; **MAX. 50 POINTS**

13. Maintaining existing Riparian Forest Buffers (all landuses).....0 - 10

- 1 point for each 100 linear feet of buffer maintained; **MAX. 10 POINTS**

14. Establish Wooded Wildlife Corridor Connecting Fragmented Forestland Areas.....0 - 20

- 1 point for each 50 linear ft. of wooded corridor established; **MAX. 20 POINTS**

15. Rare/Native Habitat Restoration.....0 - 20

- 2 points for each 5 acres of habitat restored; (i.e., longleaf pine, native prairie) **MAX. 20 POINTS**

16. Contract Acres Within the Drainage Area of a Scenic Stream.....0 - 10

- Award points only for areas which drainage enter the scenic stream portion of the waterbody between the points designated by the State.
- 1 point for each 10 acres enrolled; **MAX. 10 POINTS**

17. Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat.....15

- For approved practices and locations described on Attachment A **MAX. 15 points**

18. Located Within Approved LDEQ Wellhead Protection Area.....30

19. Size of Existing Livestock Operation [concentrated (confined) livestock or poultry]*.....0 - 100

Number of animal units	With Existing Adequate Waste Management System (waste storage structure, and composter or waste treatment lagoon)	Without Existing Waste Management System (waste storage structure, and composter or waste treatment lagoon)
> 150	25	100
100 - 150	20	90
50 - 00	15	80
< 49	10	70

NOTE: *See Item 21 Supplemental Instructions Applications Evaluation Worksheet

20. Producer will plug abandon well according to FOTG (Practice 351 Well Decommission).....20

21. Agrees to develop and implement a RMS Conservation Plan

.....20

- Conservation plan developed for entire tract(s). All tract(s) acreage will be included in the contract. **MAX. 20 POINTS**

22. Located Within a Waterbody Sub-segment that is Partially or Not Meeting Designated Uses0 - 10

NOTE: Overall degree of support according to 1006 Section 305 (b) Report

- Section 305 (b) report **MAX. 10 POINTS**
  - Partially meeting - 5 points
  - Not meeting - 10 points

23. Wildlife Wetland Habitat Improvement ((Practice 644).(Cropland Only))..... 0 - 10

- 1 point for each 5 acres of shallow water area for wildlife established;
- Minimum of 1 point for acres less than 5. **MAX. 10 POINTS**

24. Riparian Areas Restored to Woodland.....0 - 50

- 1 point for each 50 linear ft. of Riparian Forest Buffer (Practice 391) established; **MAX. 50 POINTS**

25. Assist producer under a notice of violation to comply with environmental laws

.....75

- Producer must schedule applicable practices to receive points; and must provide evidence of notification **75 POINTS**

VII. Other Concerns or Adjustments

If a landuser includes in his plan and agrees to install any of the following practices; positive/negative adjustments can be made to the applicants (CC1201) score/index computed above. If a practice's points appear as a negative number, subtract that amount from the computed score/index. If a practice's points appear as a positive number, add that amount to the computed score/index.

Practices	Adjustments
Composting Facility	- 50
Field Border	-5
Filter Strip	-5
Grade Stabilization Structure (per structure)	-3
Grassed Waterway	-5
Irrigation Pipeline	-5
Critical Area Treatment	-5
Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery	-10
Riparian Forest Buffer	-20
Waste Storage Facility	- 50
Waste Treatment Lagoon	- 75

Well Decommissioning	- 5
All Practices With Incentive Payment, Requested by Themselves	+ 20

CCC-1201

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Commodity Credit Corporation

(12-11-98)
Form Approved
OMB NO. 0560-0174

GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITY AREAS
Application Evaluation Worksheet

Applicant

Name: _____ **Date**_____

Address: _____

Application No: **Farm No.** **Tract No.(s)**

I. Land Use	Total Acres	Acres Needing Treatment	Acres to be Treated

II. Major Environmental Concerns and Criteria (Maximum # of Points Allowed)	Benchmark	After	Points
1. Reduce water erosion			
2. Reduce tillage operations (20)			
3. Reduce water use (50)			
4. Grassed waterway (15)			
5. Establish filter strips (15)			
6. Reduce sedimentation of wetlands (10)			
7. Grazing management (10)			
8. Mechanical harvest of forage synchronized (10)			
9. Brush management (5)			
10. Animal trails and walkways planned (5)			
11. Waste utilization (50)			
12. Land use conversion (50)			
13. Maintain riparian forest buffer (10)			
14. Establish wooded wildlife corridor (20)			
15. Rare/native restoration (20)			
16. Contract within drainage of scenic stream (10)			
17. Threatened and endangered species habitat (15)			
18. Within approved LDEQ wellhead protection area (30)			
19. Size of livestock operation (100)			
20. Abandoned well plugging, Well Decommissioning (20)			
21. Develop RMS plan (20)			
III. Other Factors (Maximum # of Points Allowed)			
22. Meeting designated uses - 305b report (10)			
23. Wildlife wetland habitat improvement (10)			
24. Riparian area restored to woodland (50)			
25. Assist producer comply (75)			

IV. Total Environmental Points = (After - Benchmark) + Other	Total Points

V. Estimated Program Financial Assistance Costs	Amount
Use page two of form to record estimated costs for each conservation practice and those used in adjusting index.	
VI. Applicant's score or index	
VII. Other adjustments or concerns	
VIII. Adjusted index	

Application Evaluation Worksheet

Applicant
Name: _____
Address: _____
Application No. **Farm No.** **Tract No.(s)**

IX. Conservation Practice Number	Practice Extent		Estimated 100% Cost of Practice or Component	Cost-share Rate Requested by Applicant in 1% Increments	Contract Costs
	Concern:	**Acres**		**Cost**	
	Livestock				
	Cropland				
	Forestland				
	Total				
X. Remarks					

XI. Designated Conservationist

_____ _____
(Signature) (Date)

XII. Applicant Agreement with Indicated Practices and Payment Levels

_____ _____
(Signature) (Date)

Note: The applicant has ten calendar days, after the date of signing the form, to modify the conservation practices, practice amount, or payment rates or levels requested, if desired. This form is not an authorization for the applicant to begin application of the requested conservation practices.

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CHAPTER IV

Processing Contract Applications

Sign-up Periods and Applications

1. The final EQIP rules require a continuous sign-up.

2. Applications for Statewide Resource Concerns and ten Geographical Priority Areas (GPAs) will be taken by FSA during the same period.

3. Continuous sign-ups began ***October 1, 1999***. Applications for the first approval period (pool) will be accepted through ***February 25, 2000.***

   A register of these applications will be compiled for each of the twelve funded GPAs and one register compiled for each of the Statewide Resource Concerns.

4. Applications will continue to be taken after ***February 25, 2000***; however, these later applications will ***not*** be part of the first approval pool. Applicants should be informed that their applications will ***not*** be considered for funding, unless there are funds remaining after the first approval pool (register) is worked.

5. A second approval register will be developed if the initial sign-up period of ***October 1, 1999 - February 25, 2000*** does not result in sufficient applications to obligate the available funds.

6. The second approval period will end ***August 1, 2000***. All applications taken, but not funded between ***October 1, 1999 and August 1, 2000***, will be placed in the second approval pool. This second approval pool will be ranked as soon as all are worked to create a register for funding.

7. Sign-ups will continue to be taken after August 11, and a third approval period will be scheduled in August to create a third pool of applications. To obligate remaining funds, all previously taken unfunded applications will be merged to create this third register.

8. Each Statewide Resource Concern approval register will be divided into three lists for funding: ***Livestock - Cropland - Forestland***. Funds will be allocated to each of these three units as approved by the State Conservationist.

1) FSA receives CCC 1200's (contract application) - - *page 515-78, Conservation Program Manual (CPM)*

2) FSA makes eligibility determinations.

3) FSA will forward copies of all applicable reports to NRCS for **contract application evaluations on a weekly basis.** - - *page 515-80, CPM.*

4) NRCS will conduct field visits to conduct contract application evaluations and provide a ranking report containing the following to FSA: (within 45 working days) - - *page 515-81, CPM.*

- land eligibility
- rank of each eligible application
- Payment rate or level selected by applicant (applicants must designate payment level by practice) on CCC-1201
- Estimated total contract cost
- Offered Index $= \frac{\text{EQIP cost}}{\text{Environmental Points}}$
- Adjusted index = offered index + other concerns or adjustments

NRCS will provide ranking report within 45 working days after receipt of FSA contract application report. ***NOTE: Page 515-81 CPM - Payment levels may not be changed by applicants after NRCS provides the ranking report to FSA.***

A preliminary conservation plan is necessary to accurately estimate practice costs and ranking factors. It is not necessary to enter this draft plan in FOCS.

5) NRCS at the field office level will post each application with index (rank) on the appropriate ranking register. A separate register will be compiled at the field office for each of the Statewide Resource Concerns and for each GPA present.

6) Field offices that have multi-parish GPAs will forward the GPA register (ranking report) to the designated district conservationist. The designated district conservationist will compile these registers into one and forward it to the NRCS state office for funding decisions.

7) Field offices will forward the Statewide Resource Concern register to the NRCS state office. A statewide register will be compiled, funding decisions made and allocations made to the county FSA offices.

8) County FSA Committee (COC) will, within 10 working days of receiving completed ranking reports from NRCS, confirm the rank based on NRCS information provided, approve and select contract applications for conservation plan and contract development. P*age 515-82a -CPM* The selection of application will come from the state register for Statewide Resource Concerns and from the GPA register for GPAs.

9) County FSA offices shall send letters to applicants to notify that NRCS will be contacting them for a conservation plan development.

10) County FSA office will inform NRCS of approved contract applications by sending a copy of updated ranking reports.

11) NRCS shall, within 20 working days after notification that a plan is needed, forward completed conservation plan and updated ranking report to FSA. *page 515-82b-CPM*

12) When conservation plan has been signed by the producer and NRCS, approved by the Conservation District, and the contract application is signed by the applicant, FSA will complete the contract form CCC-1200 and submit to COC for approval and to make CCC payment obligations.

1008 EQIP Fund Codes

STATEWIDE NATURAL RESOURCE PRIORITY CONCERNS

22999/2000

GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITY AREAS (GPAs)

220002/2000	Tangipahoa River
220004/2000	Bayou Pierre
220005/2000	Bayou D'Arbonne
220007/2000	Tensas River
220008/2000	Bayou de Loutre
220009/2000	Bayou Nezpique
220010/2000	Cane River Basin
220011/2000	Lower Calcasieu
220012/2000	Lower Terrebonne
220013/2000	Bayou Plaquemine Brule'

LOUISIANA

EQIP

HANDBOOK CHAPTER V – Conservation Plans

CHAPTER V

Conservation Plans